A NEW HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

FROM THE

DESCENT of the ROMANS,

TO THE

DEMISE of his late Majesty, GEORGE II.

INSCRIBED TO

His present Majesty, GEORGE III.

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HISTORY is *philosophy teaching by examples.*

Bolingbroke *from* Dion. Hali.

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HISTORY

THE

History of ENGLAND.

The HISTORY of GEORGE II. continued. A. D. 1753.

IN the beginning of this year there happened an incident, which, though in its own nature unworthy of hiſtorical notice, deſerves to be recorded, as it ſerves ſtrongly to mark the genius of the Engliſh people. A young woman,

whoſe name was Elizabeth Canning, pretended, that, on the firſt day of January, as ſhe was coming home at night, ſhe was met under Bedlam-wall by two men, who pulled off her gown, cap, and apron; and having ſecured her mouth with a gag, threatened to kill her if ſhe made the leaſt noiſe: that they dragged her along to the houſe of one Wells near Enfield-Waſh, where a woman robbed her of her ſtays: that ſhe was then forced into a cold, damp room, where ſhe was confined for a month without any other ſuſtenance than a few ſtale cruſts of bread, and about a gallon of water: that all theſe hardſhips were impoſed upon her in order to make her turn proſtitute: that, nevertheleſs, ſhe was enabled to preſerve her virtue: and that having, at laſt, found means to make her eſcape thro' a window, ſhe ran home to her mother's houſe almoſt naked, on the night of the twenty-ninth of January.

Though nothing could be more improbable, and indeed incredible than this ſtory, yet it ſo powerfully operated on the paſſions of the common people, eſpecially the enthuſiaſts of all denominations, that large ſubſcriptions were raiſed for proſecuting the ſuppoſed delinquents. Warrants accordingly were immediately iſſued for apprehending

hending Wells, miſtreſs of the houſe at Enfield-Waſh, the maid ſervant, whoſe name was Virtue Hall, and one Squires, an old gipſey woman, whom Canning charged with having robbed her of her ſlays.

Wells, though acquitted of the felony, was puniſhed as a bawd. Hall, being intimidated by the juſtice, who examined her, turned evidence for Canning; and Squires, was convicted of the robbery, although ſhe produced undoubted evidence to prove that ſhe was at Abbotſbury in Dorſetſhire that very night in which the felony was ſaid to have been committed; and Canning and her friends fell into divers contradictions in the courſe of the trial.

So great, however, was the prepoſſeſſion of the common people in her favour, that the moſt palpable falſhoods, advanced by her and her adherents, were admitted as unqueſtionable truths; while the witneſſes for Squires were ſo overawed by the rabble, that they durſt not enter the court; and thoſe who had reſolution enough to give evidence in her behalf, were inſulted even to the danger of their lives.

On this occaſion, Sir Criſpe Gaſcogne, lord mayor of London, behaved with that ſpirit of juſtice and impartiality, which ought ever to animate the chief magiſtrate

of ſuch a metropolis. Conſidering the improbability of the charge, the heat, paſſion, and furious zeal, with which it was proſecuted; and being convinced of the old woman's innocence by a great number of affidavits, voluntarily ſent up from the country by perſons of undoubted veracity, he, in conjunction with ſome other worthy citizens, determined to oppoſe the torrent of popular prejudice. Application was made to the throne for mercy. The affair was referred to the attorney and ſolicitor-general, who having examined the witneſſes on both ſides, made their report in behalf of Squires; and this poor old creature was indulged with his majeſty's pardon.

By this time, the matter was ſwelled up to ſuch a pitch as to divide the whole kingdom into two parties, who were inflamed againſt each other with a moſt violent ſpirit of animoſity. Subſcriptions were opened, and large ſums raiſed, on one ſide, to proſecute for perjury the perſons, on whoſe evidence the pardon had been obtained. Thoſe, on the other hand, who had eſpouſed the cauſe of the gipſey, reſolved to ſupport her witneſſes, and to detect, if poſſible, the impoſture of Canning.

Bills of perjury were preferred on both ſides. The evidences for Squires were tried and

and acquitted: Canning at firſt abſconded, but afterwards ſurrendered to take her trial; and being, after a long hearing, found guilty, was tranſported to the Britiſh colonies. This, to the reproach of the laws of England, was the ſevereſt puniſhment that could be inflicted on a perſon, who had been guilty of willful and downright perjury, who had been the means of expoſing a fellow creature to the moſt imminent riſk of loſing her life, and who had diſturbed the repoſe, and even endangered the peace of a whole nation.

In April of this year Dr. Cameron, brother to the famous rebel, Lochiel, having, notwithſtanding his attainder, ventured over to Scotland, in order (as was reported) to reclaim ſome money which had been embezzled by the highlanders, was apprehended, and conducted to London, where the identity of his perſon being proved, he received ſentence of death, which he according ſuffered at Tyburn with great fortitude and decorum.

The exportation of corn, which had proved ſo advantageous to England, gave occaſion about this time to ſome inteſtine commotions of a very alarming nature. A large party of colliers and others of the rabble having aſſembled in a body, made an attack

attack upon the city of Briſtol; and though treated by the magiſtrates with the utmoſt lenity, they began to plunder ſome loaded veſſels that were lying in the harbour. Nevertheleſs they were repulſed for that time by the officers of the peace, the city being deſtitute of regular forces. Next day the rioters renewed their attack with redoubled fury; and the tumult was carried to ſuch a height that the citizens were obliged to call to their aſſiſtance a troop of the Scotch grey dragoons, who immediately quelled the inſurgents; ſeveral of them were killed, and a good number wounded.

The like tumults were raiſed in Yorkſhire, on account of the turnpikes, many of which were demoliſhed by the rabble. At Leeds the civil power having ſent for a detachment of dragoons to ſupport the collectors of the tolls, the mob were ſo enraged at this circumſtance, that they broke into the town, and attacked the troops, who being forced to fire in their own defence, nine of the rioters were killed, and about twenty-four wounded.

The external tranquillity of France was no ſooner reſtored by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, than its internal peace was diſturbed by the diſputes that were revived between the parliament and clergy. The parliament, under

under pretence of ſupporting the king's authority, aimed, in fact, at retrenching it. They proceeded with the utmoſt rigour againſt all prieſts, who refuſed to adminiſter the ſacraments without certain certificates to prove that the communicants had complied with the bull Unigenitus. They had even the boldneſs to fine the biſhop of Orleans for a refuſal of this kind, and to admoniſh the archbiſhop of Paris, under pain of loſing all his temporalities, to order the ſacraments to be adminiſtered without ſuch certificates; and upon the archbiſhop's neglecting this admonition, they cauſed his temporalities to be actually ſeized.

The French king diſapproved of their conduct; but the princes of the blood, and the peers of the realm, ſeemed very well diſpoſed to eſpouſe this quarrel. It would be foreign to the purpoſe of an Engliſh hiſtory to enter into a minute detail of all the ſteps that were taken on both ſides to ſupport their reſpective claims: let it ſuffice to ſay, that the French parliament acted with a ſpirit, that would have done honour to a parliament of Great-Britain.

They refuſed to regiſter the king's arbitrary edicts, without which they could not have the force of a law; and among other vigorous reſolutions, they agreed to one,

one, importing, that the forms claimed by them were laws of the realm: that on the obſervance of theſe depended the maintenance of the royal authority, and the public tranquillity: that they knew of no middle perſon between the king and them; and that they neither could, nor would addreſs themſelves to any but to the ſovereign alone. At the ſame time they ſummoned the peers to come and take their ſeats in parliament; a ſummons, which the latter were by the king forbid, upon their allegiance, to obey. This prohibition blew the flame ſtill higher; and the parliament preſented to the king a remonſtrance, which the eccleſiaſtics and the aſſertors of the royal authority repreſented as chargeable with high-treaſon.

The parliament, not ſatisfied with theſe bold meaſures, proceeded ſtill to adopt more vigorous reſolutions. They determined, in direct contradiction to their king's orders, to tranſact no buſineſs till juſtice ſhould be done them; becauſe certain evil-minded perſons, they ſaid, prevented truth from coming near the throne; nor could they be diverted from this reſolution, even by the peremptory injunction of their ſovereign, who required them to continue their functions

tions under pain of his higheſt diſpleaſure.

For this act of diſobedience, the members of all the chambers of parliament, except thoſe of the great chamber, were baniſhed to ſeveral places of the kingdom, remote from each other. The members of the great chamber, however, piqued at the exception, which had been made in their favour, perſiſted ſo ſtrenuouſly in their oppoſition to the court, that they at laſt obtained the honour, which they ardently deſired, of being baniſhed like their brethren.

They conſidered their exile as a kind of triumph, and were attended to the place of their baniſhment, not only by great numbers of the commonalty, but even by ſome peers and princes of the blood, who exhorted them to perſevere in their patriotic conduct. Encouraged by this declaration in their favour, they continued their proceedings againſt thoſe eccleſiaſtics, who refuſed the ſacraments; and their example was followed by all the other parliaments of the kingdom.

The internal diſſentions, however, which prevailed among the French, did not prevent them from continuing their encroachments in America, where matters were faſt ripening to a freſh rupture between them and

and the Engliſh in that part of the world. By the twelfth article of the treaty of Utrecht, it was ſtipulated, that his moſt Chriſtian majeſty ſhould remit to the queen of Great Britain all ſuch letters and authentic deeds, and acts, as ſhould ratify the ceſſion, which had been made to the crown of England for ever, of Nova Scotia, or Acadia, in its whole extent, according to its antient limits; as alſo of the town of Port-Royal, now called Annapolis-Royal; and in general of all the lands and iſlands belonging to that track of country, which his moſt Chriſtian majeſty now tranſferred and yielded to the ſaid queen and crown of Great-Britain, in ſuch a full and formal manner, that the ſubjects of the moſt Chriſtian king ſhould be hereafter excluded from all rights of fiſhing in the ſea, bays, and other places on that coaſt within thirty leagues of Nova Scotia to the ſouth, commencing from the iſle commonly called Iſle Sable inclufive, and proceeding towards the ſouth-weſt. By the thirteenth article of the ſaid treaty it was agreed, that the iſland called Cape Breton, and all other places whatſoever ſituated in the gulph and mouth of the river St. Lawrence, ſhould remain the property of France.

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Notwithſtanding theſe clear and expreſs ſtipulations, the French raiſed a thouſand difficulties in the execution of the treaty. When the Britiſh commiſſaries met thoſe of France at Paris, they found them provided with maps, drawings, and other papers, to prove, that the country ceded by the above twelfth article of the treaty of Utrecht, begun at the extremity of the bay of Fundy, extended along the coaſt, and terminated at Cape Canſo; whereas the Engliſh aſſerted that it comprehended all the track compriſed between Penobſcot or Pentagoet, the river St. Lawrence, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The difference was of ſo great conſequence, that upon the deciſion of it depended no leſs than the property of North-America. The maps and drawings produced by the French, had been, all of them, framed and conſtructed by themſelves, and their geographers had contrived boundaries, marked out rivers, and chriſtened nations, ſo as to anſwer their ambitious purpoſes. To give a minute and circumſtantial detail of all the quirks and quibbles they employed to ſupport their unjuſt and unwarrantable deſigns would be equally diſagreeable to the reader and writer: ſuffice it to ſay, that, notwithſtanding the expreſs ceſſion of all

Acadia or Nova Scotia, great part of that country was reclaimed by the French under the moſt abſurd and ridiculous pretences.

In proſecution of this plan, they had not only made ſettlements upon the river Ohio, within the Britiſh poſſeſſions in the weſtern parts of Virginia; but they had even committed hoſtilities againſt the Engliſh ſubjects in other quarters of America, to which their own commiſſaries did not pretend the leaſt ſhadow of right.

The Engliſh governours in America having ſent an account of theſe encroachments to the government of Great-Britain, the earl of Albemarle, the Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris, received inſtructions to expoſtulate with the French miniſtry upon that ſubject.

In complaints of very little conſequence he ſometimes received ſatisfaction; and, in all of them, fair words and large promiſes. Sometimes it was alledged, that the French governours and commandants in America, had exceded their inſtructions; ſometimes the complaints were ſaid to be ill founded; at other times, the grievances were promiſed to be redreſſed: but, in the mean time, the French were multiplying their hoſtilities, and ſtrengthening their uſurpations by new recruits of men, money, and proviſions ſent to their colonies in the

Weſt-

Weſt-Indies. With reſpect to the conferences of the commiſſaries, they proved altogether ineffectual. The French paid ſo little regard to the repreſentations of the Engliſh, that the latter ſeeing no hopes of obtaining any kind of redreſs, immediately put a ſtop to the negociation, and returned to their own country.

The Britiſh parliament meeting on the fifteenth day of November, his majeſty, in his ſpeech to both houſes, obſerved, that the events of this year had not made it neceſſary for him to offer any thing in particular to their conſideration, relating to foreign tranſactions: that the public tranquillity, and the ſtate of affairs in Europe, remained on the ſame footing, in which they were at the cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion; and they might be aſſured of his ſteadineſs in purſuing the moſt effectual meaſures to preſerve to his people the bleſſings of peace: that he was ſorry to be obliged again to mention to them a ſubject, which at once reflected diſhonour on the nation, and created great danger and miſchief to his good ſubjects: that it was with the utmoſt regret he obſerved that the horrid crimes of robbery and murder were of late rather encreaſed than diminiſhed; he was ſenſible works of reformation were not to be effected at

once; but every body ought to contribute their aſſiſtance; and whatever ſhould be found expedient, either in this or in any other reſpect, for the welfare and happineſs of his people, ſhould meet with his hearty concurrence and ſupport.

This ſpeech was anſwered by loyal and affectionate addreſſes from both houſes, who proceeded to diſpatch the public buſineſs with an unanimity, which had hardly ever been obſerved in any former ſeſſion.

Many circumſtances concurred to produce this harmony and concord in the parliament. Mr. Pelham's candour and punctuality, in fulfilling all his engagements, whether of a public or private nature, had procured him a great number of friends; while thoſe, who were inclined to oppoſe him either from views of intereſt or ambition, found they only expoſed their own weakneſs, by their ineffectual attempts for that purpoſe. The party, that had been formed againſt him, during the lifetime of the late prince of Wales, was now diſſipated: and a ſurprizing ſpirit of loyalty began to prevail in all parts of the kingdom; a revolution, that was, in great meaſure, owing to the good underſtanding, which ſubſiſted between the ſeveral branches of the royal family.

Add

Add to this, that the preſent being the laſt ſeſſion of parliament, the houſe of commons was remarkably thin; moſt of the members being employed in the country, in making intereſt for ſecuring their re-election: and thoſe, who thought proper to attend the houſe, ſaw the tide of popularity run ſo ſtrong, that they judged it imprudent to raiſe any oppoſition.

The firſt affair, that came before the parliament, was the repeal of the act for naturalizing the Jews. This act had excited a moſt violent ſpirit of jealouſy and diſcontent among the whole body of the people, who were highly enraged againſt thoſe of the Jewiſh religion. The miniſtry were too wiſe to think of oppoſing the popular torrent; and Mr. Pelham and his brother had already declared that they would uſe their utmoſt endeavours, to procure the repeal of a law, which had given ſo much offence to the nation in general.

Accordingly on the firſt day of the ſeſſion, the duke of Newcaſtle preſented to the upper houſe, a bill to repeal the act permitting perſons of the Jewiſh religion to be naturalized by parliament, and for other purpoſes therein mentioned. A clauſe had been inſerted in the act to be repealed, diſabling all naturalized Jews to purchaſe, inherit, or

take any advowſon or preſentation, or other right or intereſt in, or to, any benefice, prebend, or other eccleſiaſtical living or promotion, ſchool, hoſpital, or donative, or any grant or avoidance thereof.

By the firſt draught of the act for the intended repeal, this clauſe was not to be annulled; but ſome gentlemen were of opinion, that that clauſe, if allowed to ſtand, would imply, that the Jews might purchaſe or inherit any other kind of property in the kingdom: a point, which, they thought, was very diſputable, and accordingly the clauſe was inſerted in the projected repeal.

The new bill, however, was ſtrenouſly oppoſed by the earl of Granville, the lord chancellor, the lord Raymond, and particularly by the earl Temple, who exerted himſelf with great zeal and activity in defence of the Jews. The biſhops endeavoured to vindicate their conduct in having voted for the act, which they conſidered, they ſaid, only in a political light; but the majority of the peers agreed in opinion, that the matter was, in itſelf, of too little conſequence, to hazard the general diſſatisfaction of the people.

The bill, therefore, was immediately paſſed, and ſent down to the lower houſe, where

where it met with a ſtrenuous oppoſition from a good number of members, eſpecially from Mr. Potter, who ſpoke againſt it with great warmth and vehemence.

He was anſwered by Sir George Lyttleton, who ſaid, that nothing could be more fooliſh than to ſupport an act of ſo little importance againſt the ſenſe of a whole people, and that too at the eve of a general election: that a learned divine, meaning Dr. Delauny, had wrote a book againſt eating blood, which, in his opinion, was a matter of great indifference; but ſhould it ſo happen, that addreſſes againſt eating blood ſhould come up from the whole nation, he could no longer think it a matter of indifference, becauſe it ceaſed to be ſuch by the conſequences with which it was attended: that with regard to the act in queſtion, he had ſtill the ſame opinion he entertained at the time he voted for its paſſing into a law; but he thought the diſguſt it had excited in the nation, had contributed greatly to alter its complexion; and that therefore, in prudence, it ought to be repealed.

The preamble to this bill ran in the following ſtrain: "Whereas an act of parliament was made and paſſed in the twenty-fifth year of his majeſty's reign, entitled, An act to permit perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh

iſh religion to be naturalized by parliament, and for other purpoſes therein mentioned; and whereas occaſion has been taken from the ſaid act to raiſe diſcontents and diſquiets in the minds of many of his majeſty's ſubjects, be it enacted, &c."

This introduction was conſidered as an indecent reflection upon the body of the people in general, and in particular upon thoſe, who had oppoſed the bill in the courſe of the preceding ſeſſion. Sir Roger Newdigate, therefore, moved, that the expreſſion ſhould be changed into this form: Whereas great diſcontents and diſquietudes had from the ſaid act ariſen. This motion was ſtrongly ſupported by a great many members; but, after a long and obſtinate debate, it was finally rejected, the bill paſſed without a diviſion, and, in due time, was confirmed by the royal ſanction.

The enemies of the Jews carried their reſentment againſt that people to a ſtill higher degree. Another act remained in force, by virtue of which any perſon profeſſing the Jewiſh religion might become a free denizen of Great Britain, after having reſided ſeven years in any of his majeſty's colonies in America; and this was now repreſented as a law of the ſame dangerous tendency with that, which had lately been repealed.

Mr.

Mr. Cooke, therefore, one of the members for Middleſex, moved, that an humble addreſs ſhould be preſented to his majeſty, deſiring he would ſubmit to the peruſal of the houſe the liſts tranſmitted from the American colonies to the commiſſioners for trade and plantations, containing the names of all ſuch perſons, profeſſing the Jewiſh religion, as had entitled themſelves to the benefit of the ſaid act, from the firſt day of June 1740. Theſe liſts were accordingly produced, and left upon the table for the inſpection of the members; but as the act contained no limitation of time, within which the benefit of it ſhould be claimed, and as this claim was attended with much trouble and ſome expence, very few perſons had availed themſelves of it in that period.

Nevertheleſs, as a great number of Jews were already entitled to claim this indulgence, and as it remained an open channel, through which Great Britain might be over-run with thoſe people, all of whom the law would hold as natural-born ſubjects, and their progeny as freed from all the reſtrictions impoſed on other naturalized foreigners; lord Harley moved for leave to bring in a bill, to repeal ſo much of the ſaid act as related to perſons profeſſing the

Jewiſh

Jewiſh religion, who ſhould come to ſettle in any Britiſh colony after a limited time. The motion was ſtrongly ſupported by a good number of members; but, after a long debate, was rejected by the majority.

The next object, that engaged the attention of the commons, was a bill for improving the regulations already made to prevent the ſpreading of a contagious diſtemper, which had broke out among the horned cattle in different parts of the kingdom. On the eighth day of February, Mr. Fox, ſecretary at war, and Mr. Hume, were ordered to bring in a bill for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion of officers and ſoldiers in the ſervice of the Eaſt India comſtany, and for the puniſhment of offences committed in the Eaſt Indies, and the iſland of St. Helena.

As this was a meaſure of a very extraordinary nature, all the members were ordered to attend the houſe on the day prefixed for the ſecond reading: at the ſame time all charters, commiſſions, and authorities, by which any powers relative to a military juriſdiction, or the exerciſe of martial law, had been granted or derived from the crown to the ſaid company, were ſubmitted to the inſpection of the members. This bill was conſidered by many as a dangerous extenſion

extenſion of military power, and prejudicial to the civil rights of the ſubject, and was, therefore, violently oppoſed by the earl of Egmont, lord Strange, and Mr. alderman Beckford: but being ſupported by the ſolicitor general, Mr. Yorke, and others of the miniſtry, it paſſed through both houſes, and in the end, received the royal aſſent.

The day preceding that, on which this bill was paſſed, Sir John Barnard moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the act obliging electors of members of parliament to take, if required, the oaths therein mentioned, before they were admitted to poll. In ſupport of this motion, it was urged, that the act did not anſwer the purpoſes, for which it was originally intended; and that it ſerved only to promote a ſpirit of profligacy and irreligion, by opening a door to perjury, and falſe ſwearing.

The members were fully convinced of the juſtneſs of this obſervation; but the experiment, it was thought, was too dangerous to be attempted at the eve of a general election; and the motion was therefore rejected by a conſiderable majority. Among the other vices, in which the people of England were at this time plunged, gaming was not the leaſt dangerous and deſtructive. In order

to

to give a check to this growing evil, the commons in the act eſtabliſhing the lottery for purchaſing Sir Hans Sloane's curioſities, had inſerted two clauſes, importing, that no perſon ſhould be allowed to purchaſe above twenty tickets for his own ſhare, and that the ſubſcription ſhould be kept open for the ſpace of four months, that foreigners might have an opportunity of engaging in the project.

Notwithſtanding theſe wiſe precautions, the ſubſcription was declared to be full in a few hours after it had been opened; and great numbers of the tickets were engroſſed by certain individuals entruſted with the charge of receiving the contributions, and who had taken care to ſcreen themſelves under a falſe liſt of names feigned for the purpoſe.

The commons, informed of theſe circumſtances, made a ſtrict ſcrutiny into the matter, and agreed to ſeveral ſevere reſolutions againſt one Le——, who had amaſſed a large fortune by this and other kinds of peculation. They voted him guilty of a breach of truſt, and a direct violation of the lottery-act; and an addreſs was preſented to his majeſty, deſiring he might be proſecuted by the attorney-general for theſe offences. He was accordingly ſued in the court of King's Bench

Bench, and condemned in a fine of one thouſand pounds; a puniſhment, in appearance, by far too light for a crime of ſuch a pernicious tendency.

The ſeſſion was cloſed on the fifth day of April, when his majeſty, in his ſpeech to both houſes, told them, that he ſhould ſay nothing, at preſent, on foreign affairs; but that it was his fixed reſolution to exert his whole power in maintaining the general tranquillity, and adhering to ſuch meaſures for that purpoſe, as he had hitherto purſued, in conjunction with his allies; that he could not diſmiſs them without returning them his hearty thanks for the ſupplies they had ſo chearfully granted, and which were the more acceptable to him, as they had brought no new burthen upon his good ſubjects: that, as the time drew near, when the preſent parliament muſt determine by law, it was his intention, very ſpeedily, to call a new one; but it would be unjuſt to this, to give it no public teſtimony of his approbation; the many imminent proofs they had exhibited of their affection and duty to his perſon and government, of their zeal for this excellent conſtitution, and for the ſecurity of the preſent eſtabliſhment, ſhould always be remembered by him, with the moſt lively gratitude: that, by their vigorous aſſiſ-

tance, under the divine providence, he had been enabled to put an end to an expenſive, though neceſſary war, by an honourable peace, which they had greatly contributed to preſerve, by readily and uniformly ſupporting his meaſures: that they had gone farther; and, while the difficulties ariſing from the war were ſcarce over, had ſeized the very firſt opportunity to perfect one of the greateſt works of peace, by concurring in the moſt proper means for a gradual decreaſe of the national debt, and at the ſame time, for raiſing the public credit: that they had likewiſe, by ſeveral new laws, laid a foundation to ſtrengthen and advance the commerce of the kingdom: that ſuch a ſeries of wiſe and ſteady conduct could not fail to recommend them to the good will and eſteem of their fellow ſubjects, as well as to his; and, that, for his own part, he ſecurely relied upon the loyalty and fidelity of his people; and had no other aim than to promote their laſting happineſs and welfare.

Soon after the parliament was diſſolved by proclamation, and writs were iſſued for convoking a new one. The ſame ceremonies were practiſed with regard to the convocations of Canterbury and York, though they no longer retained their former influence: the behaviour of the lower houſe, during ſome of their

their laſt meetings, had been ſo factious and turbulent, that it was judged imprudent to entruſt them again with the diſcuſſion of matters of an eccleſiaſtical nature.

In the beginning of March, the miniſtry of Great-Britain had been left without a head by the death of Mr. Pelham, which was not only ſincerely lamented by his ſovereign, but alſo regretted by the nation in general, to whoſe good will and affection he had recommended himſelf by his open and ingenuous behaviour, even while he was purſuing meaſures, which ſome of them did not entirely approve. England, it may be affirmed, never enjoyed ſuch a ſtate of political tranquillity, as during the time he had the direction of the treaſury; and he is, perhaps, the only inſtance of a miniſter, who made great virtues ſerve in the place of great abilities.

His native candour, inſtead of being effaced, as but too commonly happens, was rather improved by the many departments of buſineſs through which he paſſed; and his freedom from art procured him more friends, than the moſt artful was ever able to gain. Of a tenacious memory, rather than of a quick apprehenſion, he was ſomewhat ſlow in the acquiſition of knowledge; but when he had once acquired it, he was

never known to forget a ſingle fact, that could be of any uſe to him in the conduct of life. His underſtanding was rather clear than bright, ſo that he was ſeldom deceived by the falſe glare of the medium, through which objects were preſented to his view.

He entered into life at a very early period; and having ſerved, for ſome time, in the army, he retained to the laſt, that frankneſs of behaviour and converſation, which is ſo peculiar to men of merit in that profeſſion. His diſintereſtedneſs was ſeen in the ſtate of his private fortune, which, conſidering his natural frugality, the many great poſts he had had enjoyed, and the vaſt opportunities he had of making money, was far from being affluent at the time of his death. His great principle in government was to avoid party of every kind; and, though his maxims were very different from thoſe of Sir Robert Walpole, yet he preſerved ſo remarkable a regard to the character and memory of that miniſter, that he often declined the vindication of his own meaſures, becauſe it could not be obtained without impeaching the conduct of his predeceſſor.

He had, a little before his death, concerted the plan of the new parliament, and imparted it to his majeſty, who had thought proper to honour it with his approbation.

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A reſolution was therefore taken to admit of as few deviations as poſſible, from the ſcheme he had formed.

His brother, the duke of Newcaſtle, was appointed firſt lord commiſſioner of the treaſury, and was ſucceeded as ſecretary of ſtate by Sir Thomas Robinſon, who had long reſided as ambaſſador at the court of Vienna. The other department of this office was ſtill retained by the earl of Holderneſs; and the function of chancellor of the exchequer was performed, as uſual, by the lord chief juſtice of the King's Bench, until a proper perſon could be found to ſupply that important poſt: but, in the courſe of the ſummer, it was conferred upon Mr. Legge, who acquitted himſelf with equal honour and ability.

Several other alterations were made of leſs importance to the public. Sir George Lyttleton was appointed cofferer, and the earl of Hilſborough comptroller of the houſhold. Mr. George Grenville, brother to earl Temple, became treaſurer of the navy; and Mr. Charles Townſend accepted the place of a lord of Admiralty, in the room of lord Barrington, made maſter of the wardrobe. Lord Hardwicke, the chancellor, was raiſed to the dignity of an earl. The place of lord chief juſtice of the King's

Bench becoming vacant by the death of Sir William Lee, was beſtowed upon Sir Dudley Rider, who was ſucceeded by Mr. Murray in the office of attorney general.

The elections, for the new parliament, went every where in favour of the miniſtry. The ſpirit of oppoſition was now almoſt entirely extinguiſhed; and the words of court and country party, which uſed to produce ſuch terrible effects, had incurred the contempt not only of perſons of ſenſe and underſtanding, but even of the loweſt and moſt ignorant of the vulgar.

The writs being returned, the parliament was opened on the tenth day of May, by the duke of Cumberland, and ſome other peers, who acted by virtue of a commiſſion from his majeſty. Mr. Onſlow being choſen and preſented as ſpeaker of the lower houſe, and approved as ſuch by the commiſſioners, the lord chancellor made a ſpeech to the parliament, importing, that his majeſty had given them this early opportunity of coming together, in order to compleat, without loſs of time, certain parliamentary proceedings, which he judged would be for the ſatisfaction of his good ſubjects; but he did not think proper to lay before them any points of general buſineſs, reſerving every thing of that nature to the uſual time of their aſſembling in the winter. On the fifth

day

day of June, this ſhort ſeſſion was cloſed, and the parliament prorogued to the eighth day of Auguſt.

In the beginning of this year the Engliſh met with great diſquietude from the Iriſh parliament. The inhabitants of this latter kingdom, bleſſed with a mild adminiſtration, had improved conſiderably in all the arts of peace: but, in proportion as they advanced in theſe ſocial advantages, they ſeemed to forget their dependency upon England, and the conſtitutional ties, to which they were ſubject. The Britiſh government ſcarcely ſuffered them to feel any inequality between their own conſtitution and that of Great Britain; and this circumſtance infuſed a belief, that Ireland was altogether independent of England.

During the lieutenancy of the earl of Cheſterfield, their diſcontents had been ſmothered; and while the rebellion raged in Great Britain, they gave ſignal proofs of their duty and affection to his majeſty. The manners of the earl of Harrington, who was their next lord lieutenant, were not ſo agreeable to their genius; and they therefore began to diſcover their diſſatisfaction; but, under the duke of Dorſet, who ſucceeded him in that high office, they unmaſked the deſigns, which they had ſo long harboured.

Though

Through the indulgence of England, and the penalties impoſed upon abſentees, they had ſaved in their treaſury a ballance of about two hundred and five thouſand pounds; part of which their attorney-general, who acts as chancellor of the exchequer, moved ſhould be applied towards diſcharging the national debt.

A bill accordingly was brought in for paying one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds of that incumbrance; but this bill made no mention of his majeſty's previous conſent, which had always been deemed neceſſary to the paſſing Iriſh money bills, and was almoſt the only mark of dependency, which the people of Ireland had upon the Engliſh government; excepting that of having their acts reviſable by the Britiſh parliament, before they could paſs into laws. When the above mentioned act, therefore, came to be conſidered at the council board in England, his majeſty's previous conſent was added to the preamble, and the bill being ſent back with that addition, was paſſed without the leaſt oppoſition.

In the year 1753, there was a ſum in the treaſury ſufficient for paying off the national debt, beſides an additional balance of one hundred and thirty thouſand pounds; and as a reſolution had been taken to diſcharge that debt,

debt, the duties appropriated for the payment of its intereſt, were ſuffered to determine from Chriſtmas of that year. In the bill, however, for paying off that debt, the mention of his majeſty's previous conſent was again omitted; and the bill was, therefore, ſent back from England with that circumſtance inſerted, together with a letter to the lord lieutenant, ſigned by eighteen Britiſh counſellors, declaring, that his majeſty could not diſpenſe with that expreſſion, which he conſidered as neceſſary to the ſupport of his prerogative.

Notwithſtanding the gentle manner, in which this intimation was communicated, the Iriſh commons were ſo refractory in their diſpoſition, that they rejected the bill by a majority of five voices. The queſtion was now ſwelled into a violent national conteſt; and, what was ſtill more remarkable, almoſt all his majeſty's ſervants in Ireland, who were natives of that kingdom, were declared enemies to the court. The people were inflamed to a degree of enthuſiaſm by the behaviour of their repreſentatives; and Mr. Boyle, the ſpeaker of their houſe of commons, was almoſt adored for his oppoſition to the lord lieutenant.

The public creditors, mean while, were in a moſt wrethed condition, the bill for pay-

paying them being loſt, and the funds for the intereſt being cancelled and aboliſhed. By the prudence, however, of the lord lieutenant, matters were at laſt accommodated: his majeſty's letter arriving for paying off ſeventy ſeven thouſand five hundred pounds of the national debt, the circulation of money was revived: the reſentment of the people ſubſided: the ſpeaker of the houſe of commons was promoted to the dignity of an earl; and the public tranquillity, which ſeemed for ſome time to have been baniſhed, was again reſtored.

While the Britiſh government was thus perplexed with the affairs of Ireland, the French were extending their encroachments not only in the Weſt, but likewiſe in the Eaſt Indies; in the latter of which, they endeavoured to embroil the Engliſh company with divers nabobs or princes, who governed different parts of the *Peninſula intra Gangem.*

In order to convey to the reader a clear and diſtinct idea of theſe tranſactions, it may not be improper to exhibit a ſhort ſketch of the Engliſh forts and ſettlements in that remote country. The firſt of theſe that occurs is Surat, in the province ſo named, ſituated between the twenty-firſt and twenty-ſecond degrees of north latitude.

From

From hence the Peninſula ſtretches into the India ocean as far as the latitude of eight north, ending in a point at Cape Comorin, which is the ſouthern extremity.

To the Northward this Peninſula joins to Indoſtan, and at its greateſt breadth extends ſeven hundred miles. Upon the eaſt, weſt, and ſouth it is waſhed by the ſea. It comprehends the kingdoms of Malabar, Decan Galconda, and Biſnagar, with the principalities of Gingi, Tanjaour, and Madura. The weſtern ſide is known by the name of the Malabar coaſt: the eaſtern takes the denomination of Coromandel, and, in different parts of this long ſweep, from Surat round Cape Comorin to the bottom of the bay of Bengal, the Engliſh and other European nations have, with the conſent of the Mogul, eſtabliſhed forts and trading ſettlements.

All theſe kingdoms, properly ſpeaking, belong to the Mogul; but his power was ſo much weakened by the laſt invaſion of Kouli Khan, that he has not been able to maintain his empire in this remote country; the hereditary princes of which, and even the nabobs, who were originally governours appointed by his authority, have thrown off their dependence on the Mogul, and exerciſe an abſolute dominion over their reſpec-

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tive territories, without acknowledging his ſuperiority, either by tribute or homage.

Theſe princes, when they quarral amongſt themſelves, naturally have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of ſuch European powers as are ſettled in or near their dominions; and, in the ſame manner, the Eaſt Indian companies of the European powers, which happen to be at war with each other, never fail to engage the Nabobs in the diſpute. The next Engliſh ſettlement to Surat, on the coaſt of the peninſula, is Bombay, in the kingdom of Decan, a ſmall iſland with a very convenient harbour, about forty-five leagues to the ſouthward of Surat. The town is remarkably populous; but the ſoil is thin and barren, the climate foggy and unwholeſome. The commerce too was rendered very precarious by the neighbourhood of the famous corſair Angria, until his fort of Geriah was taken, and his fortifications deſtroyed. The Engliſh company likewiſe carry on ſome traffic at Dabul, about forty leagues farther to the ſouth, in the province of Cuncan.

In the ſame ſoutherly direction, towards the point of the peninſula, we arrive at Carwar, in the latitude of fifteen degrees, where there is a ſmall fort and factory belonging to the company, ſtanding on the ſouth

ſouth ſide of a bay, with a river capable of admitting ſhips of conſiderable burthen. The climate here is extremely healthy; the country abounds with proviſions of all ſorts; and the beſt pepper of India grows in this neighbourhood. The next Engliſh ſettlement lies at Tillechery, where their company have erected a fort to protect their commerce of pepper and cardamoms from the inſults of the Rajah, who governs this part of Malabar. Hither the Engliſh trade was removed from Callicut, a large town, that ſtands fifteen leagues to the ſouthward of Tillechery, and was as well frequented as any part on the coaſt of the Indian Peninſula.

The moſt ſoutherly ſettlement, which the Engliſh poſſeſs on the Malabar coaſt, is that of Anjengo, between the eighth and ninth degrees of latitude. It is ſecured by a regular fort, ſituated on a broad river that falls into the ſea, and would be very commodious for trade, were not the water on the bar too ſhallow to receive ſhips of any great burthen. Doubling the cape, and paſſing through the ſtraits of Chilao, formed by the iſland of Ceylon, we arrive on the coaſt of Coromandel, which forms the eaſtern ſide of the Iſthmus.

Profecuting our courſe in a northern direction, the firſt Engliſh factory we find is that of Fort St. Davids, or Tegapatan, ſituated on the latitude of eleven degrees forty minutes north, within the kingdom of Gingi. It was about thirty years ago, purchaſed of a Moratta prince, by the Eaſt-India company, and, next to Bombay, is the moſt conſiderable ſettlement we have yet mentioned. Its territory extends about eight miles along the coaſt, and half that ſpace up the country, which is plentifully watered by a variety of rivers. The ſoil is fertile, and the climate healthy. The fort is regular, well furniſhed with cannon, ammunition, and a numerous garriſon, which is the more neceſſary, as it lies in the neighbourhood of the French ſettlement of Pondicherry. The trade conſiſts of long cloths of different colours, ſallampores, morees, dimitties, ginghams, and ſuccatoons.

But the chief ſettlement belonging to the company on this coaſt, is that of Madraſs or Fort St. Geroge, ſtanding farther to the northward, between the thirteenth and fourteenth degrees of latitude, and at no great diſtance from the diamond mines of Golconda. It is ſituated on a flat, barren, ſcorching ſand, ſo near the ſea, that in ſtormy weather, the walls are endangered by

by the mighty ſurges rolled in from the ocean. As the ſoil is ſandy, the climate is ſo intenſely hot, that it would be altogether uninhabitable, were not the heat mitigated by the ſea-breezes. On the land ſide it is defended by a ſalt-water river, which, tho' it contributes to the ſecurity of the place, deprives the inhabitants of one great comfort, by obſtructing the ſprings of freſh water. The fort is a regular ſquare, the town encompaſſed with walls well mounted with artillery, and the place, including the black town, is very populous.

Madraſs, with ſeveral villages in the neighbourhood, was ſold to the Engliſh by the king of Golconda, before the Mogul extended his empire over this country. The governor of this place is not only preſident of Fort St. George, but alſo of all the other ſettlements on the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel, as far as the iſland of Sumatra. He lives in great ſplendour, and is aſſiſted by inferior judges, who paſs ſentence of death occaſionally on malefactors of any nation, except the ſubjects of Great Britain. All the company's affairs are directed by him and his council, who diſpoſe of all places of truſt and profit, and, at the ſame time, are inveſted with the power of inflicting corporal

puniſhment, ſhort of life and limb, on ſuch Europeans as are in the ſervice.

By virtue of an act paſſed in the courſe of this very year, the military officers belonging to the company were allowed to hold courts-martial, and to puniſh the ſoldiers according to the degree of their offence. In a word, Madraſs is a place of the utmoſt conſequence to the company for ſtrength, wealth, and the great returns it makes in calicoes and muſlins.

About the latter end of the laſt century, the Engliſh company had a flouriſhing factory at Maſſulipatam, ſeated on the north ſide of the river Nagundi, which divides the kingdoms of Golconda and Biſnagar, in the latitude of ſixteen degrees and thirty minutes; but now there is no European ſettlement here, except a Dutch factory, which is chiefly employed in the chintz commerce.

At Viſigapatam, ſtanding ſtill farther to the northward, the Engliſh poſſeſs a factory regularly fortified, on the ſide of a river, which, however, the ſhallowneſs of the water on the bar has rendered unfit for navigation. The adjacent country affords great quantities of cotton cloths, and the beſt ſtriped muſlins in India. It is chiefly for the ſake of this ſettlement that the company maintain

tain a factory at Ganjam, the moſt eaſtern town in the kingdom of Golconda, ſituated in a country abounding with rice and ſugar-canes.

Still farther to the north coaſt, in the latitude of twenty-two degrees, the company have a factory at Balaſore, which was formerly very conſiderable; but has been gradually declining ſince the navigation of the river Huguely was improved. At this place every European ſhip bound for Bengal and the Ganges takes in a pilot. The climate is reckoned rather unhealthy; but the adjacent country is remarkably fruitful, and abounds with manufactures of cotton and ſilk. Without the aſſiſtance of ſkilful pilots, the Europeans would find it difficult to navigate the different channels through which the river Ganges diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at the bottom of the bay of Bengal.

On the ſouthern branch is a town called Pipely, where there was formerly an Engliſh factory; but this was removed to Huguely, one hundred and ſixty miles farther up the river; a place, which, together with the company's ſettlement at Calcutta, were the emporiums of their commerce for the whole kingdom of Bengal.

Hugnely, indeed, is now abandoned by the Engliſh, and their whole trade centers at Calcutta or Fort William, which is a regular fortification, containing lodgings for the factors and writers, ſtore-houſes for the company's merchandize, and magazines for the ammunition. As for the governor's houſe, which likewiſe ſtands within the fort, it is one of the moſt regular ſtructures in all India. Beſides theſe ſettlements along the ſea coaſt of the peninſula, and on the banks of the Ganges, the Engliſh poſſeſs certain inland factories and poſts for the convenience and defence of their commerce, either purchaſed of the Nabobs and Rajahs, or conquered in the courſe of the war.

As the operations we propoſe to relate, were confined to the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel, or to the interior countries, which form the *Peninſula intra Gangem*, it will be needleſs to deſcribe the factory at Bencoolen on the iſland of Sumatra, or any ſettlements which the Engliſh poſſeſs in other parts of the Eaſt Indies.

In order to give the reader a more diſtant view of the military tranſactions in India, it will be neceſſary to obſerve that, immediately after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, monſieur Dupleix, who commanded for the French in that country, began, by his intrigues,

trigues, to ſow the ſeeds of diſſenſion among the Nabobs, that he might thereby have an opportunity of ſerving the intereſt of his own nation.

Perceiving, that Annaverda Cawn, Nabob of Arcot, was attached to the Engliſh, he formed a deſign to depoſe that prince; for which purpoſe he entered into an alliance with Muzephur Jing and Chuenda Saib, who being joined by a body of French troops, marched againſt the Nabob, and attacking him in the plains of Arcot, gave him an entire defeat, in which himſelf and a great number of his adherents were ſlain.

His ſon, however, Mahomed Alley Cawn, eſcaped from the field of battle, and took ſhelter in Trichenopoly, where he ſolicited the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh, who favoured him with a reinforcement of men, money, and ammunition. Strengthened by this ſupply, he gained ſome advantages over the enemy, who were obliged to retreat; but no deciſive blow was given. Mahomed afterwards repaired in perſon to Fort St. Davids to demand more powerful ſuccours, alledging, that his intereſt was intimately connected with that of the Engliſh company, who, in time, would be obliged to abandon the whole coaſt, ſhould they allow the enemy to proceed in their conqueſts.

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He accordingly received another ſtrong reinforcement under the command of captain Cope; but nothing of importance was attempted, and the Engliſh auxiliaries withdrew from his army. Mahomed, being thus left alone, was attacked by the enemy, and compelled to fly for relief to Nazir Jing, Nabob of Golconda, who was in the intereſt of the Engliſh. This prince, having an army on foot, marched againſt the French, and drove them back to Gingey, a ſtrong fortreſs in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, where they were immediately ſurrounded and beſieged. During this ſiege, or rather blockade, the French found means to form a conſpiracy againſt Nazir Jing, who was ſuddenly cut off; and Muzephur, his nephew, was, by Dupleix, made Nabob of Golconda in his room.

In the mean time, Mahomed, finding it impoſſible to maintain his footing by his own ſtrength, entered into a cloſe alliance with the Engliſh, and yielded to them ſome commercial points, which had been long in diſpute. Then they detached captain Cope to put Trichenopoly in a poſture of defence; while captain Gingen, a Swiſs officer, marched at the head of four hundred Europeans to the aſſiſtance of the young Nabob. The two armies being partly equal in point

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of ſtrength, lay incamped in ſight of each other a whole month; during which nothing happened but a few ſkirmiſhes, which generally turned out in favour of the Engliſh.

In order to make a diverſion, and divide the enemy's forces, the company reſolved to invade the province of Arcot with a ſeparate body; and this was the firſt occaſion, upon which Mr. Clive diſcovered his extraordinary talents. This gentleman, the ſon of an attorney in London, had entered into the ſervice of the Eaſt India company as a writer, and was conſidered as a perſon but indifferently qualified for ſucceeding in any civil ſtation. He now offered his ſervice in a military capacity, and actually began his march to Arcot, at the head of two hundred and ten Europeans.

With ſuch reſolution, ſecrecy, and diſpatch did he conduct his enterprize, that he made himſelf maſter of the capital, before the enemy was apprized of his approach. The inhabitants, expecting to be plundered, offered him a large ſum of money to ſpare the city: but they owed their ſecurity to the generoſity and humanity of the victor. He nobly rejected the proffered ranſom, and iſſued a proclamation, importing, that thoſe, who were willing to remain in their

their houſes, ſhould be protected from inſult and injury, and the reſt have leave to retire with all their effects, except proviſions, for which he promiſed to pay the full value.

By this diſintereſted conduct he ſo entirely engaged the affections of the people, that even thoſe, who quitted the place, furniſhed him with exact intelligence of the enemy's deſigns, when he was beſieged in the ſequel. The town was in a little time inveſted by the French Nabob, Chunda Saib, at the head of a numerous army; and the operations of the ſiege were directed by European engineers.

Though their approaches were retarded by the vigorous and deſperate ſallies of Mr. Clive, they at length effected two breaches, ſuppoſed to be practicable; and on the fourteenth day of October 1751, gave a general aſſault. Mr. Clive, having been previouſly informed of their deſign, had made ſuch preparations for their reception, that they were repulſed in every quarter with great loſs, and obliged to abandon the ſiege with the utmoſt precipitation.

This gallant Engliſhman, not ſatisfied with the glory he had acquired from his noble defence, was no ſooner joined by two thouſand Morattas under captain Kil-

Kilpatrick, than he marched in purſuit of the enemy, whom he overtook in the plains of Arami. There, on the third day of December, he fell upon them with irreſiſtible fury; and after an obſtinate diſpute, in which the enemy loſt a great number of men, he put them to a total rout. The cities of Arami and Kajevaran immediately ſurrendered to his forces; and having thus given an effectual check to the progreſs of the enemy, he returned to fort St. Davids in triumph.

He had enjoyed but a few weeks of repoſe, when he was again called to the field by freſh incurſions of the enemy. In the beginning of 1752, he marched with a ſmall body of troops to Madraſs, where he was joined by a reinforcement from Bengal, and a party of the natives, the whole army amounting but to a very inconſiderable number.

With theſe he advanced to Covereepante, about fifteen miles from Arcot, where he found the French and Indians, to the number of about four thouſand, with eight pieces of cannon. Though they were advantageouſly poſted and intrenched, and the day was already almoſt ſpent, Mr. Clive advanced againſt them with his uſual intrepidity; but the victory remained for ſome time

time doubtful, till at last the English general sent round a detachment to fall on the rear of the French battery. This expedient had the desired effect. The Indians were immediately thrown into confusion, and betook themselves to a precipitate flight. The French, to a man, laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war; and all the cannon and baggage fell into the hands of the victor.

The province of Arcot being thus cleared of the enemy, Mr. Clive, with his forces, returned to Fort St. Davids, where he found major Laurence, just arrived from England, to assume the command of the troops in the company's service. On the eighteenth day of March, this officer, attended by Mr. Clive, took the field, and was joined by captain Gingen at Trichenopoly. From hence he detached Mr. Clive with four hundred European soldiers, a few Moratta horse, and a body of Seapoys, to cut off the enemy's retreat to Pondicherry.

In this expedition he was so fortunate as to take, by storm, two forts of great consequence, garrisoned by the French, several of whom were slain, and about one hundred and forty made prisoners. Advancing still farther into the country, he attacked another

ther party of the ſame people, in their camp at Yelconda, and after putting a great number of them to the ſword he drove the reſt into a fort, where, on the eleventh day of June, he obliged them to ſurrender priſoners of war.

In the mean time, Chuenda Saib lay encamped with an army of thirty thouſand men at Syrrinham, an iſland in the neighbourhood of Trichenopoly, which he longed eagerly to poſſeſs. Hither major Laurence marched with his ſmall army, and took his meaſures ſo well, that the enemy's proviſions were entirely intercepted. Chuenda Saib endeavoured to make his eſcape; but he was taken priſoner by the nabob of Tanjaour, an ally of the Engliſh company, who, in order to prevent the diſputes, which might have ariſen among the captors, ordered his head to be ſtruck off.

Major Laurence having attacked the main body of the enemy, obtained over them a compleat victory, in conſequence of which the iſland of Syrrinham ſubmitted at diſcretion, and about a thouſand French ſoldiers fell into the hands of the Engliſh, including thirty officers, with forty pieces of cannon and ten mortars. The enemy being thus baffled in every quarter, Mr. Dupleix re-

called all his regulars from the Indian army, and resolved for the future to act on the defensive.

The French East-India company, discouraged by these repeated disasters, sent over in the year 1753, one Duvelar as their commissary, who, in order to compromise matters in the East-Indies, concluded a convention with the English company; by which it was agreed, that the two companies should reciprocally restore the territories taken by the troops of either since the year 1748, except certain districts, which the English retained for the conveniency of their trade: that the nabobs advanced through influence of either party, should be acknowledged by both: and that, for the future, neither should interfere in the differences between the princes of the country.

Whatever might have been the sentiments of the French with regard to their affairs in the East-Indies, certain it is, their designs in America were altogether hostile; and their govenours, in those parts, were every day committing the most flagrant infractions of the peace, which at last kindled up a most bloody and destructive war in every quarter of the globe.

As this war may be termed a native of America, and the principal scenes of it have been act-

acted on that theatre, we ſhall, for the ſatisfaction of our readers, delineate the ſituation of the Britiſh colonies, as they exiſted before the commencement of hoſtilities, along the ſea-coaſt, from the gulph of St. Lawrence as far ſouth as the country of Florida. We ſhall enumerate the Indian nations that lie ſcattered about their frontiers, and point out the manner, in which the French had hemmed them in by a ſurprizing chain of fortifications.

Should we include Hudſon's Bay, with the adjacent countries, the banks of Newfoundland, and the province of Florida, in this geographical deſcription, we might affirm, that Great Britain poſſeſſes a territory, along the ſea-coaſt, extending little leſs than two thouſand miles: but as theſe countries were not concerned with the late diſpute, we ſhall proceed from the northward on the ſouthern ſide of the gulph of St. Lawrence; and beginning with Nova Scotia, deſcribe our ſettlements as they lie in a ſoutherly direction as far as the gulph of Florida.

This great track of country, comprehending fifteen degrees of latitude, is waſhed on the eaſt by the Atlantic ocean, extends on the ſouth to Spaniſh Florida, ceded by the peace to Great Britain: but

to the eaſtward the limits are uncertain, ſome alledging, that the juriſdiction of the colonies reaches through the whole continent as far as the South Sea; while others, with more moderation, ſuppoſe they are naturally bounded by the river Illinois, that runs into the Miſſiſſippi, and in a manner connects the latter river with the chain of lakes known by the names of Michegan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, the three firſt communicating with each other, and the laſt diſcharging itſelf into the river of St. Lawrence, which running by Montreal, and Quebec, iſſues into the bay of the ſame denomination, forming the northern boundary of Nova Scotia.

The French, who had no legal claim to any lands on the ſouth ſide of this river, had, nevertheleſs, with an inſolence of ambition peculiar to themſelves, not only extended their forts from the head of the river St. Lawrence, through a vaſt track of country as far as the Miſſiſſippi, which empties itſelf into the gulph of Florida; but had, likewiſe, by a ſeries of the moſt ſhameleſs encroachments, endeavoured to confine the Engliſh colonies within ſuch narrow limits, as, had their attempts proved ſucceſsful, would have deprived them of almoſt one half of their poſſeſſions.

Nova

Nova Scotia, called by the French Acadia, lies between the forty-fourth and fiftieth degrees of north latitude, having New England and the Atlantic ocean to the ſouth and ſouth-weſt, and the river and gulph of St. Lawrence to the north and north eaſt. The winter, which in this country laſts near ſeven months, is extremely cold; and without the intervention of any thing that can be called ſpring, is immediately ſucceeded by a ſummer, the heat of which, though of no long continuance, is almoſt intolerable.

The ſoil, in general, is thin and barren, though ſome parts of it is ſaid to be equal to the beſt land in England. The whole country is covered with a perpetual fog, even after the ſummer has begun. It was firſt occupied by the French, before they made any ſettlement in Canada; ſince which time it has frequently changed hands from the French to the Engliſh, and from the Engliſh back again to the French; until our right was finally determined by the twelfth article of the treaty of Utrecht, by which all the country comprehended within the ancient limits of what was called Nova Scotia, or Acadia, was ceded to Great Britain.

This article was confirmed by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; but for want of aſcertaining exactly what were the bounds intended to be fixed by the two nations, with reſpect to this province, diſputes aroſe, which gave occaſion to the war that broke out in the ſequel.

Adjoining to Nova Scotia, on the ſouth, is the province of New England, ſituated between the forty-firſt and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude, extending near three hundred miles in length, and about two hundred in breadth, if we bound it by thoſe tracks which the French have poſſeſſed: no part of the ſettlements of this country, however, ſtretches above ſixty miles from the ſea. The ſummer here is intenſely hot, and the winter proportionably cold: nevertheleſs the climate is healthy, and the ſky generally clear.

The ſoil agrees not with any of the European kinds of grain; but produces great plenty of maiz, which the inhabitants bake into bread, and brew into beer, tho' their favourite drink is made of moläſſes hopped, and impregnated with the tops of the ſpruce fir, which is a native of this country. The ground raiſes good flax and tolerable hemp. Here are great herds of black cattle, ſome of them very large in

ſize,

ſize, a vaſt number of excellent hogs, a breed of ſmall horſes, exceſſively ſwift and hardy; and large flocks of ſheep, whoſe wool, though not ſo fine as that of England, is manufactured into very good cloth. The generality of the people conſiſt of a ſubſtantial yeomanry, who cultivate their own freeholds, and breathe the true ſpirit of liberty, which is encouraged by a republican form of government, as well as of religion.

New England is divided into four diſtinct provinces, known by the names of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſet's bay, Rhode Iſland, and Connecticut, confederated for their common defence. The province of Maſſachuſet's bay is ruled by a governour, a lieutenant governour, a council, and an aſſembly. The two firſt places, together with the command of the militia, and the chief poſts in the law and revenue are in the gift of the crown; but the council is elected by the repreſentatives of the people; yet the governour has a negative, a privilege that veſts him with very conſiderable influence.

The colony of Connecticut is governed much in the ſame manner, but enjoys ſtill greater privileges.

Rhode

Rhode Island is the smallest of the four, consisting of the island so called, and the old plantation of Providence; their charter is the same with that of Connecticut, and the province is extremely populous; a circumstance entirely owing to the unbounded freedom of religion, with which the inhabitants are indulged.

New Hampshire, the most northern of the four, is the least populous; perhaps on account of its being a royal government, the crown having the nomination of all the officers of justice, the militia, and the members of the council.

These four provinces contain about three hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, including a small number of blacks and Indians. The country abounds with trading towns; and Boston, the capital of Massachuset's Bay, is the largest city of all North America, situated on a peninsula, at the bottom of a fine capacious harbour, secured from the violence of the sea by a number of islands, and rocks, which appear above water. The entrance, which is narrow, is defended by the cannon of a regular fortress. This town contains ten churches, and twenty thousand inhabitants, who carry on a very extensive commerce.

The

The commodities of New England are maſts and yards, pitch, tar, and turpentine, ſtaves, lumber, boards, beef, pork, butter, cheeſe, Indian corn, and peaſe, cyder, apples, hemp and flax, horſes and live cattle. The trade in poultry is not very conſiderable; but their fiſhing employs a great number of people, and about thirty thouſand quintals of cod-fiſh are annually exported from New England to Spain, Italy, and the Mediterranean.

About twenty thouſand quintals of an inferior ſort are ſent to the Leeward Iſlands, for the uſe of the negroes. From theſe iſlands the traders of New England import a vaſt quantity of molaſſes, from which they diſtil ſpirits ſufficient almoſt to ſupply the other Britiſh colonies in North America, the Indian tribes on that continent, thoſe employed in the Newfoundland fiſhery, and and the crews of the ſhips that trade to the coaſt of Guinea.

A great number of ſhips for ſale are built at Boſton, and other towns in New England; and, with regard to trade, the inhabitants of it are carriers for all the other colonies. They have eſtabliſhed manufactures for hats, woollen, and linen, and exceed all the other coloniſts in induſtry and enterprize. The French had made conſiderable

derable encroachments on the northern parts of New Hampshire, where they erected the fort of Cohassar.

To the south of New England lies the province of New York, extending northerly, on both sides of the river Hudson, about two hundred miles into the country possessed by the Indians of the Five Nations, whom the French call Iroquois; but in breadth this province exceeds not fifty miles, though it comprehends Long Island, lying to the southward of Connecticut, remarkable for yielding plenty of grain, excellent pasture, with a great number of horses, sheep, and oxen.

The capital, which from the province derives the name of New York, is situated on an excellent harbour in the island Manahatton, extending fourteen miles in length, and five in breadth, at the mouth of the noble river Hudson, which is navigable for above two hundred miles. The city, though not large, is composed of neat and elegant houses, adorned with four churches, and contains about eight thousand inhabitants, the descendants of English and Dutch, who carry on a flourishing trade in corn, flour, and other species of provision.

On the banks of the river Hudſon, and at the diſtance of an hundred and fifty miles from New York, ſtands the town of Albany, which, though containing but a ſmall number of inhabitants, drives a conſiderable trade with the Indians, who are here ſupplied with coarſe woollen cloths and ſhirts, guns, hatchets, knives, hoes, kettles, powder and ſhot, with ſeveral other articles.

In this place all the treaties are concluded and all bargains tranſacted between the Engliſh and the Iroquois, a confederacy of five Indian nations, who, by their courage, conduct, and military ſkill, had reduced a great number of other Indian tribes, and ſubdued a territory more extenſive than the whole kingdom of France. About the beginning of this century they were able to bring ten thouſand warriors into the field; but their number is now ſo greatly diminiſhed by wars, diſeaſes, and the uſe of ſpirituous liquors, that they cannot raiſe above fifteen hundred men, even though they have admitted into their confederacy the nation of the Tuſcaroras, whom the Engliſh drove from the confines of Carolina.

New York contains about eighty thouſand inhabitants; a ſocial and hoſpitable people, who live happily under a mild and

gentle government. The Mohock Indians inhabit the country on the farther ſide of Albany. The northern extremities of New Hampſhire, and New York are ſeparated by the lakes of Champlain and Sacrament, between which the French had erected the fort of Crown point, which afterwards fell into the hands of the Engliſh.

To the ſouth of New York, and lying along the coaſt in a ſoutherly direction, is the ſmall province of New Jerſey, bounded on the weſt by the river Delaware, which divides it from Penſylvania, ſtretching about one hundred and fifty miles in length, but, in breadth, not more than one third part of that extent.

The climate, ſoil, and produce of theſe two provinces, as well as of Penſylvania, are nearly the ſame. They yield great quantities of grain, ſheep, horſes, hogs, and horned cattle; all ſorts of poultry and game in great abundance; vegetables of every ſort in perfection, and excellent fruit, eſpecially peaches and melons. Here are large foreſts of oak, aſh, beech, cheſnut, cedar, walnut tree, cypreſs, hickery, ſaſſafras, and pine: but the timber is not reckoned ſo fit for ſhipping as that of New England and Nova Scotia.

Theſe provinces afford great quantities of flax and hemp. New York abounds with mines

mines of iron; and very rich copper is found in New Jerſey. The number of ſouls in this laſt country is ſuppoſed to amount to about ſixty thouſand; but as yet they have no town of any conſequence; Perth Amboy, which is their capital, being but thinly peopled, though it has the advantage of a commodious harbour, capable of admitting ſhips of a conſiderable burthen. The inhabitants of New Jerſey ſend the greater part of their produce to ſuch markets of New York and Penſylvania as lie in their neighbourhood.

Penſylvania is bounded on the north by New York and New Jerſey, and on the ſouth by the province of Maryland. It extends about two hundred and fifty miles in length, and two hundred in breadth, and has no communication with the ſea, except by the mouth of the river Delaware.

The inhabitants of this flouriſhing province which was originally planted by Quaunder the auſpices of the celebrated William Penn, whoſe deſcendants are ſtill proprietaries of the country, amount to above two hundred and fifty thouſand, one half of which number conſiſts of Dutch, Swedes, and Germans, who live together in admirable harmony, though divided by a ſurprizing diverſity of religions, comprehend-

ing Quakers, Epiſcopalians, Calviniſts, Lutherans, Catholics, Methodiſts, Moravians, Independents, Anabaptiſts, and a German ſect called Dumplers, who live in a kind of religious ſociety, wearing a kind of long beards, and a habit reſembling that of friars.

This province contains many conſiderable towns, but the capital, Philadelphia, is remarkably rich and flouriſhing. It is ſituated on a tongue of land, at the confluence of two navigable rivers, the Delaware and the Shulkel, diſpoſed in the form of a regular oblong, and deſigned by the original plan to extend from the one to the other. The ſtreets, which are broad, even, and uniform, croſs each other at right angles, leaving proper ſpaces for churches, markets, and other public buildings. The houſes, which are of brick, are neat and elegant, the quays ſpacious and magnificent, the warehouſes large and numerous, and the docks commodious and well fitted for ſhip-building. The city contains about fifteen thouſand people, who carry on a conſiderable trade with the Engliſh, French, Spaniſh, and Dutch colonies in America, with the Azores, Canaries, Madeira, Great Britain and Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Holland.

The

The peaſants, who cultivate the country, are hardy, robuſt, and induſtrious; and the tradeſmen manufacture both linen and woollen for the uſe of the colony. Their chief commodities are wheat, flour, barley, oats, Indian corn, peas, beef, pork, cheeſe, butter, cyder, beer, flax, hemp, linſeed oil, furs and deer-ſkins, ſtaves, lumber, and iron.

The importance of this colony may be eſtimated by the value of the imports from England, which, in the year 1757, amounted to two hundred ſixty-eight thouſand four hundred and twenty-ſix pounds, ſix ſhillings and ſix-pence ſterling. The greateſt danger, to which this province is expoſed, ariſes from the pacific principles of the Quakers, who poſſeſs the chief ſhare in the government, and are generally averſe to hoſtile meaſures, even when they ſeem neceſſary for their own ſafety.

The northern boundary of Penſylvania is commonly fixed at the Lake Erie, where the French built a fort. They likewiſe raiſed another at ſome diſtance to the ſouthward of the river Au Beuf, and made other encroachments on this colony, which we ſhall have occaſion to mention in the ſequel.

Contiguous to Penſylvania, on the ſea-coaſt, lies the province of Maryland, a tract of land ſtretching along the bay of Cheſapeak, in length about one hundred and forty miles, and nearly of the ſame breadth, bounded on the north by Penſylvania, on the eaſt by the Atlantic ocean, and by the river Potowmack on the ſouth.

This country was firſt planted by Roman Catholics, under the auſpices of lord Baltimore, to whom Charles the ſecond granted it by patent. Afterwards, however, people of all religions were admitted into this ſettlement, and indulged with liberty of conſcience; and at preſent the reigning religion is that of the Engliſh church. The climate is intolerably hot in ſummer, and not very healthy. The ſoil is fruitful, and yields a great quantity of tobacco, which the inhabitants cultivate as their ſtaple commodity.

The capital is diſtinguiſhed by the name of Annapolis, a ſmall town pleaſantly ſituated on the river Patuxent, and here the governour reſides. The number of whites in this province does not exceed forty thouſand; but there are upwards of ſixty thouſand blacks, employed for the moſt part in the culture of tobacco, which they raiſe annu-

annually to the amount of forty thouſand hogſheads.

To the ſouth of Maryland lies the province of Virginia, watered on the north by the river Potowmack, which is the boundary between this and the laſt mentioned colony, having the bay of Cheſapeak to the eaſt, bounded on the ſouth by Carolina, and extending weſtward without any fixed limits, though the plantations have not reached any farther than the great Allegany mountains; ſo that the province, as now occupied, ſtretches in length about two hundred and forty miles, and in breadth not above two hundred, ſituated between the thirty-ſix and fortieth degrees of north latitude.

Ships, in their voyage to Virginia, ſteer through a ſtreight formed by two points called the Capes, into the bay of Cheſapeak, a large inlet, that runs three hundred miles into the country from ſouth to north, covered from the Atlantic ocean by the eaſtern ſide of Maryland, and a ſmall portion of Virginia on the ſame peninſula. This commodious bay is about eighteen miles broad for a conſiderable ſpace, and ſeven at its narroweſt part; its depth in general about nine fathom of water. It receives on both ſides many navigable rivers; thoſe on the Vir-

ginia ſide being known by the names of James river, York river, the Rappahannock, and Potowmack.

The country, eſpecially towards the ſea, is very low and marſhy, but the ſoil remarkably fertile. The air and weather are variable; the heats of ſummer intolerable; and the froſts of winter ſudden and intenſely cold; ſo that upon the whole the climate is neither agreeable nor healthy, the people being particularly ſubject to agues and pleuretick diſorders.

The province abounds with vaſt foreſts of timber: the plains are covered with a ſurprizing luxuriancy of vegetables, flowers, and flowering ſhrubs, diffuſing the moſt delicious fragrance. The ground produces plenty of corn, and every ſort of fruit in great abundance and perfection. Horned cattle and hogs have here encreaſed to a ſurprizing degree, ſince they were firſt imported from Europe.

The animals, natives of this and the neighbouring countries, are deer, panthers or tygers, bears, wolves, foxes, ſquirrels, racoons, and creatures called opoſſums, with an infinite variety of beautiful birds, and a diverſity of ſerpents, among which the rattle-ſnake is the moſt remarkable. Virginia has

has but few towns, and thoſe very inconſiderable.

James town, the ancient capital, is dwindled down to a petty village; and Williamſburg is far from being extenſive or populous, tho' the ſeat of government, where the governour reſides, where the aſſembly and court of juſtice are; and a college hath been erected for the ſtudy of the arts and ſciences. The number of white people in this province amounts to about ſeventy thouſand; but the blacks are much more numerous.

Theſe laſt are employed in the culture of tobacco, the ſtaple commodity, of which above forty thouſand hogſheads are annually exported to Great-Britain. The natives likewiſe ſupply their mother country with great quantities of flax, hemp, iron, ſtaves, walnut-tree, and cedar planks; and they trade largely with the Weſt Indian iſlands in lumber, pitch, tar, corn and proviſions.

On the ſouth ſide of Virginia lie the two Carolinas, ſituated between the thirty-ſix and thirty-firſt degrees of latitude; extending in length above four hundred miles, and in breadth about three hundred, and bordering with Indian nations called Catawbas, the Creeks, and Cherokees.

The

The country of Carolina is divided into two governments, of which the moſt northerly is the moſt conſiderable. The climate and ſoil of both are pretty ſimilar: the firſt, though warm, is not unhealthy; the laſt extremely fertile, producing every thing in great plenty that grows in Virginia, beſides abundance of excellent oranges, and ſome commodities which are not to be found to the northward.

North Carolina, though not ſo opulent, is more populous than the ſouthern part. The chief town, named Edonton, is no more than a trifling village; but the preſent governour has lately projected another capital farther ſouth upon the river Neus. The articles in which the inhabitants chiefly trade, are tar, pitch, turpentine, ſtaves, ſhingles, timber, corn, peas, pork, and beef, tobacco, deer-ſkins, indigo, wheat, rice, bees-wax, tallow, bacon, and hog's lard, cotton, and ſquarred timber, live cattle, with the ſkins of beaver, racoon, fox, minx, wild cat, and otter.

South Carolina is much better cultivated; the people more civilized, and the commerce more extenſive. The capital of this province, called Charles town, is admirably ſituated at the confluence of two navigable rivers, having the advantage of a com-

commodious harbour. The town, which, for ſize, beauty, and commerce, may be eſteemed one of the fineſt in North America, contains about eight hundred elegant houſes, and is furniſhed with regular fortifications. Here the governour reſides, and the aſſembly is convened.

The merchants are rich, and the people in general, gay, liberal, and addicted to pleaſure. Their trade, excluſive of the articles, which they poſſeſs in common with the inhabitants of North Carolina, conſiſts of two ſtaple commodities, rice and indigo, which they export in great quantities; and they have likewiſe made ſome progreſs in the culture of ſilk, which, it is to be hoped, will be ſoon carried to a higher degree of perfection.

The moſt ſoutherly of all our ſettlements on the coaſt before the beginning of the war, was Georgia, extending about ſixty miles from north to ſouth along the ſea ſhore; but widening in the inland parts to the Apalachian mountains. The ſoil and climate of this country are nearly the ſame with thoſe of South Carolina, to which it is contiguous; yet the ſummer is here more hot, and the land not ſo fertile.

Savannah, the capital, is conveniently ſituated for trade, about ten miles from the ſea,

ſea, on a river of the ſame name, navigable with large boats two hundred miles farther up to the ſecond town, called Auguſta; a place that flouriſhes by the Indian trade of ſkins, which the inhabitants carry on with their neighbours the Creeks, the Chickeſaws, and the Cherokees, who are the moſt numerous and powerful tribes in America.

Georgia is bounded on the ſouth by the river Attamaha, at no great diſtance from the fort of St. Auguſtin in Florida. The number of inhabitants is but very inconſiderable, though it daily encreaſes, and the coloniſts begin to raiſe large quantities of rice and indigo.

Having thus exhibited, for the information of our readers, a ſuccinct view of the Britiſh colonies in North-America, as they exiſted before the commencement of hoſtilities, we ſhall now reſume the thread of our hiſtory, and deſcribe the events that happened this year on that vaſt continent.

The Engliſh miniſtry, having received nothing but evaſive anſwers from the court of France, with regard to the complaints that were made of the encroachments in America, ſent peremptory orders to their governours in that country to repel force by force, and drive the French from their ſettlements on the river Ohio. In conſequence of

of theſe inſtructions the provinces of Virginia and Penſylvania took the matter into their moſt ſerious conſideration; but, while they deliberated, the French were vigorouſly proſecuting their deſigns on the other ſide of the mountains.

They ſiezed Logs-town, which the Virginians had built on the river Ohio; ſurprized the Block-houſe and Truck-houſe, where they found ſkins and other commodities to the amount of twenty thouſand pounds; and deſtroyed all the Britiſh traders, except two, who found means to eſcape. At the ſame time M. de Contrecœur, with a thouſand men and eighteen pieces of cannon, arrived in three hundred canoes from Venango, a fort they had built on the banks of the Ohio, and took by aſſault a Britiſh fort, which the Virginians had erected on the forks of the Monangahela, that empties itſelf into the ſame river.

Theſe hoſtilities were ſucceeded by divers ſkirmiſhes between the people of the two nations, which were attended with various ſucceſs. At length the governours of the Britiſh colonies received orders from England to eſtabliſh a political confederacy for their common defence; and the governour of New-York was ordered to confer with the chiefs of the ſix nations, with a view to de-

detach them from the French interest by means of promises and presents of value, sent over for that purpose.

A conference was accordingly appointed at Albany, to which place the governour of New York, accompanied by commissiaries from all the other British colonies, immediately repaired; but very few of the Indians attended, and even these seemed to be indifferent to the offers of friendship that were made them by the English.

The truth is, what by the arts of the French missionaries, and the selfish conduct of some of the colonists, the Indians were entirely alienated from the English. Nevertheless they accepted the presents, renewed their treaties with the king of Great-Britain, and even solicited his assistance in driving the French from the posts and possessions they had seized within the Indian territories.

In pursuance of these resolutions, colonel Washington was sent from Virginia with four hundred men, and took possession of a post on the banks of the Ohio, where he threw up some works and erected a kind of occasional fort, in hope of being able to defend himself in that situation, until he should be reinforced by a party from New York, which, however, did not arrive.

rive. While he remained in this ſituation, de Viller, the French general, advanced at the head of nine hundred men, with a view to diſlodge him.

On his approach to the place, he detached one Jamonville, an inferior officer, with a ſmall party, and a formal ſummons to Waſhington, requiring him to quit the fort, which, he pretended, was built on ground belonging to the French, or their allies; but this party having been guilty of ſome hoſtilities, was either cut off, or made priſoners by the Engliſh.

De Viller, incenſed at this ſuppoſed inſult, marched up to the attack, which Waſhington for ſome time ſuſtained under manifold diſadvantages. At length, however, he ſurrendered the fort upon terms, for the performance of which he left two officers as hoſtages in the hands of the French; and in his retreat was terribly harraſſed by the Indians, who plundered his baggage and maſſacred his people.

The Engliſh miniſtry were no ſooner informed of this event, than they diſpatched orders to the earl of Albemarle at Paris to complain of it to the French court, as a direct violation of the peace; but little regard was paid to this repreſentation.

Both nations were now convinced that a war was inevitable, and each began to make ſuitable preparations. France continued to ſend reinforcements of men, and ſupplies of ammunition to Quebec, for the proſecution of her ambitious projects; and the miniſtry of England ſent the neceſſary cautions to the governours and provinces in North-America, exhorting them to uſe their utmoſt endeavours in reſiſting the encroachments of the enemy.

It was found, however, to be extremely difficult to effect ſuch an union as ſeemed requiſite for their ſafety. The different colonies were actuated by different views and principles, as well religious as political: beſides, every ſettlement was divided into factions, formed by the governour and the leaders of the aſſembly: in other words, an oppoſition ſubſiſted like that in parliament, and a continual ſtruggle between the liberties of the people, and the prerogatives of the proprietors, whether ſovereign or ſubject.

Mr. Dinwiddie, governour of Virginia, having demanded a guinea for every patent he ſhould paſs for land, the aſſembly voted this demand illegal, arbitrary, and oppreſſive; declared that every man, that paid it, ſhould be deemed an enemy to his country; and

and ſent over an agent to London to ſolicit the ſuppreſſion of this impoſition.

The aſſembly of Penſylvania conſumed the time in vain deliberations and violent diſputes, while the enemy made inroads on their borders. The colony of New York was filled with diſcontent and diſſatisfaction. Sir Danvers Oſborn, who had been appointed governour of this province, died immediately after his arrival at New York, and the inſtructions he had received, being tranſmitted to England, were publiſhed to the world.

The preamble complained bitterly of the want of duty, allegiance, loyalty, and unanimity in the proceedings of the aſſembly of that province, who had violated the royal commiſſion and inſtructions, by aſſuming to themſelves a power to diſpoſe of public money in the laws which they had occaſionally paſſed. This gentleman was therefore directed to inſiſt, in the ſtrongeſt manner, upon the reformation of all thoſe public abuſes, and upon the eſtabliſhment of a certain ſupply for the ſervice of the government, as well as upon the ſettlement of a ſalary for himſelf.

In the ſame inſtructions, his majeſty ſignified his will and pleaſure, that all money, raiſed for the ſupply or ſupport of go-

vernment, or upon any emergency for immediate ſervice, ſhould be diſpoſed of and applied faithfully to the uſe for which it had been granted, by warrant from the governour, by and with the advice and conſent of the council of the province, and no otherwiſe; that, nevertheleſs, the aſſembly ſhould be permitted, from time to time, to view and examine the accounts of money diſpoſed of, by virtue of laws which they had enacted: that if any member of the council, or officer holding a place of truſt or profit within the government, ſhould, in any manner whatever, give his aſſent to, or, in anywiſe, adviſe or concur with the aſſembly in paſſing any act or vote, by which the royal prerogative might be leſſened or impaired, or any money be raiſed or diſpoſed of for the public ſervice, contrary to, or inconſiſtent with the method preſcribed by theſe inſtructions, the governour ſhould forthwith remove or ſuſpend ſuch counſellor or officer ſo offending, and give an immediate account of his proceeding to the commiſſioners of trade and plantations.

Theſe inſtructions were invidiouſly repreſented as proofs of the arbitrary deſigns of the miniſtry; but the truth is, the conduct of the colonies had been ſo very impolitic, and

ſo

ſo little calculated for their common ſafety, that, if the government had neglected to provide for their defence, the Britiſh intereſt in America might have been entirely ruined.

In order to prevent ſuch a fatal cataſtrophe, the moſt vigorous reſolutions were now adopted. Officers were appointed for two regiments, conſiſting each of two thouſand men, to be raiſed in America, and commanded by Sir William Pepperel and governour Shirley, who had enjoyed the ſame command in the laſt war; and a body of troops were tranſported from England for the ſame ſervice.

In the courſe of this year, the Proteſtant religion received a ſevere blow by the defection of one of its principal profeſſors. This was the hereditary prince of Heſſe-Caſſel, huſband to the princeſs Mary of England, who now renounced the Proteſtant, and embraced the Catholic faith. He was ſuppoſed to have been cajoled to this profeſſion by the promiſes of certain powers, who flattered him with the hopes of being made an elector of the empire, and, perhaps, of even being choſen king of the Romans.

His father, though deeply affected with his ſon's apoſtacy, did not fail to take im-

mediate meaſures for preventing the evil conſequences, which might otherwiſe have flowed from his defection. He inſtantly convoked the ſtates of the landgraviate, who, after mature deliberations, agreed to the following reſolutions: that prince Frederick of Heſſe, when he came to the regency, ſhould not have it in his power to alter the eſtabliſhed laws, or grant any church to Roman Catholics, for the public exerciſe of their religion: that he ſhould not chuſe a confeſſor out of any order beſides thoſe that ſhould be ſpecified: that the princes, his ſons, ſhould, till they were of age, be under the immediate care of the reigning landgrave, or the ſtates of the country, their father being quite excluded from any ſhare in their education: that, upon the acceſſion of their father to the regency of the landgraviate, the county of Hanau ſhould be given to the eldeſt of theſe princes; it being withal underſtood, that the poſſeſſor of that county ſhould profeſs the Proteſtant religion: and that, the better to inſure the obſervance of theſe regulations, they ſhould be guarantied by the kings of Pruſſia and Denmark, the maritime powers, and the evangelic body of the empire. All theſe reſolutions have been happily carried into execution; and it is to be hoped, that, in

future

future times, this event will not be productive of any great detriment to the Proteſtant religion.

The exile of the parliament of Paris, far from having intimidated the other tribunals from performing what they conceived to be their duty, ſeemed only to inflame the diſcontents of the people to a higher pitch, and to encourage all the courts of juſtice to aſſert their conſtitutional privileges. The chatelet continued, even after three of their members were impriſoned in the Baſtile, to proſecute thoſe prieſts, who refuſed the ſacrament to ſuch perſons as declined to ſubſcribe the bull Unigenitus. The ſame proſecutions were carried on, and bold remonſtrances preſented, by the parliaments of Aix and Rouen. In a word, the people in general were filled with ſuch a ſpirit of jealouſy and diſſatisfaction, as ſeemed to threaten an univerſal anarchy, and a total diſſolution of government.

The prelates appeared to triumph in the combuſtion they had raiſed. They entered into aſſociations for their mutual ſupport; they formed intrigues at court, and harraſſed their ſovereign with ſuch inſolent declarations, that he, at laſt, grew tired of their proceedings, and opened his eyes to the fatal conſequences of their pride and ob-

obſtinacy. He firſt took an opportunity of exhorting the archbiſhop of Paris to act more ſuitably to the character of a clergyman: he then recalled the parliament, who returned in triumph; and finding the metropolitan deaf to all his exhortations, he ordered him to be baniſhed to Conflans-ſous-Charenton.

In Spain the intereſt of Great-Britain was ſo powerfully ſupported by Mr. Wall, who had been ambaſſador in England, and lately appointed ſecretary of ſtate for foreign affairs, that the French party, though patronized by the queen mother, and ſeconded by all the influence of the marquis de la Enſenada, the prime miniſter, was totally overthrown.

The king, being convinced that it would be for the intereſt of his ſubjects to maintain a good underſtanding with England, and fully informed of Enſenada's intrigues, ordered that miniſter to be arreſted and confined, and beſtowed upon Mr. Wall the beſt part of his employments.

The Spaniards, however, in the Weſt-Indies, ſtill continued to moleſt the ſubjects of Great-Britain employed in cutting log-wood in the Bay of Honduras; but repreſentations on this head being made to the court of Madrid, the diſpute was amicably ad-

adjuſted between Mr. Wall and Sir Benjamin Keene, the Britiſh ambaſſador.

While the intereſt of Britain thus prevailed in Spain, it ſeemed to decline at the court of Liſbon. His Portugueſe majeſty had formed vaſt projects of trade and commerce, and even erected an Eaſt-India company: in the mean time he could not help expreſſing his uneaſineſs at the great quantities of gold which were annually exported from his dominions, as the ballance due from his ſubjects on Engliſh commodities.

In his endeavours to check this traffic, which he believed prejudicial to his intereſt, he impoſed numberleſs hardſhips on the Britiſh merchants reſiding at Liſbon: ſome of them were impriſoned on the moſt frivolous pretences: others robbed of their property; and, in a word, a general ſpirit of perſecution ſeemed to prevail againſt them through the whole kingdom of Portugal. The king inſiſted upon laying an impoſition of two or three per cent. on all the Portugueſe gold that ſhould be exported; but the profits of the trade could not admit of ſuch an exorbitant exaction. Mean while there being a ſcarcity of corn in Portugal, which was ſupplied from England; and the people having nothing but gold to give for this neceſſary

neceſſary commodity, the king was obliged to connive at the exportation of his coin, and the trade reverted into its natural channel.

On the fourteenth day of November, the king of Great Britain opened the ſeſſion of parliament with a ſpeech, in which he obſerved, that the general ſtate of affairs in Europe had undergone very little alteration ſince the laſt meeting: that he had lately received from his good brother the king of Spain the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of his firm reſolution to cultivate a good underſtanding with England; and that he, for his own part, would continue to perſevere in the ſame ſentiments: that it ſhould be his principal view, as well to ſtrengthen the foundation and ſecure the duration of a general peace, as to improve the preſent advantages of it for promoting the trade of his good ſubjects, and protecting thoſe poſſeſſions, which conſtituted one great ſource of their wealth and commerce: and finally, that he hoped they would endeavour to compleat their plan for appropriating the forfeited eſtates in the Highlands to the ſervice of the public. By omitting the mention of the encroachments of France, he deprived the minority of all kind of pretext for giving any oppoſition to the addreſſes of

of thanks, which were carried in both houſes with a debate.

The government ſeemed reſolved to humble the pride and check the ambition of the French nation; and this diſpoſition was ſo agreeable to the nation in general, that they begrudged no expence, and heartily ſeconded the deſigns of the miniſtry. The commons granted for the ſervice of the enſuing year four millions, ſeventy-three thouſand, ſeven hundred and ſeventy-nine pounds, one million of which was expreſsly allotted for enabling his majeſty to augment his forces by ſea and land. Thirty-two thouſand pounds were given as a ſubſidy to the king of Poland, and twenty thouſand to the elector of Bavaria.

Theſe grants met with little or no oppoſition in the committee of ſupply; becauſe it was believed, that, in caſe of a war, France would endeavour to avail herſelf of her ſuperiority of land force, by attacking his majeſty's German dominions, and that therefore it might be neceſſary to ſecure the aſſiſtance of ſuch allies on the continent.

The ſupplies were raiſed by the ſtanding branches of the revenue, the land-tax and malt-tax, and a lottery for one million; one hundred thouſand pounds of it to be deducted for the ſervice of the public, and the

the remaining ſeven hundred thouſand to be charged on the produce of the ſinking fund, at the intereſt of three per cent. per annum, to commence from the fifth day of January, 1756.

The civil tranſactions of this ſeſſion were limited to a few objects. Several new regulations were made for encouraging and improving the whale and white herring fiſhery, as well as for compleating and putting in a poſture of defence a new fort, which had been lately built at Anamaboe on the coaſt of Africa.

By the conſtitution of Chelſea hoſpital, the diſabled veterans, who enjoyed the benefit of that eſtabliſhment, could not receive the firſt payment till the expiration of one year after they had been put upon the liſt of penſioners. This obliged them to have recourſe to uſurers, who lent them money at an exorbitant intereſt; by which means they and their families were, many of them, reduced to the danger of ſtarving.

In order to remedy this growing evil, Mr. Pitt, pay-maſter-general of the forces, brought in a bill, which will ever remain a ſtanding monument of his humanity. It ordained, that half a year's penſion ſhould be advanced half a year before it was due; and the practice of uſury was effectually pre-

prevented by a clauſe importing, that all contracts ſhould be void by which any penſion might be mortgaged. This excellent bill was unanimouſly approved, and having paſſed both houſes with uncommon expedition, received the royal aſſent.

Notwithſtanding the harmony and concord which prevailed in parliament, the controverted election of Oxfordſhire was productive of ſome violent debates. The ſheriff had made a return of all the four candidates, to wit, lord Parker, Sir Edward Turner, lord Wenman, and Sir James Daſhwood. The two former were choſen upon what was called the new or Whig intereſt; the two latter upon the old or Tory.

Incredible was the expence, as well as animoſity, with which this affair had been proſecuted on both ſides; even murder had been committed upon the place of election. The matter was conteſted with no leſs zeal in the houſe of commons. At laſt, after a long and obſtinate diſpute, the lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were declared to be the ſetting members by a majority of two hundred and thirty-three againſt one hundred and five voices.

The attention of the legiſlature was chiefly attracted by the conduct of France,

which obſerved no medium, but ſeemed intent upon ſtriking ſome important blow, that might ſerve as a declaration of war. At Breſt, and other ports in that kingdom, the French were employed in fitting out a powerful armament, and made no ſcruple to acknowledge, that it was deſigned for North America.

On the twenty-ſeventh day of March,* Sir Thomas Robinſon, ſecretary of ſtate, brought a meſſage from the king to the parliament, importing, that his majeſty having, at the beginning of the ſeſſion, declared, that his principal object was to preſerve the public tranquillity, and at the ſame time protect thoſe poſſeſſions, which conſtituted one great ſource of the wealth and commerce of his kingdoms; he now found it neceſſary to acquaint the houſe of commons, that the preſent ſituation of affairs made it requiſite to augment his forces by ſea and land, and to take ſuch other meaſures as might beſt tend to preſerve the general peace of Europe, and to ſecure the juſt rights and poſſeſſions of his crown in America, as well as to repel any attempts whatſoever that might be made to ſupport and countenance any deſigns, which might be formed

* A. D. 1755.

ed againſt his majeſty and his kingdoms; his majeſty doubted not but his faithful commons, on whoſe affection and zeal he entirely relied, would enable him to make ſuch augmentations, and to take ſuch meaſures for ſupporting the honour of his crown, and the true intereſts of his people, and for the ſecurity of his dominions in the preſent critical conjuncture, as the exigency of affairs might require; in doing which, his majeſty would have as much regard to the eaſe of his good ſubjects, as ſhould be conſiſtent with their ſafety and welfare.

The nation, in general, were ſo fully convinced of the abſolute neceſſity of a war with France, that this meſſage was anſwered by loyal and affectionate addreſſes from both houſes; and it was on this occaſion that the million was granted for augmenting the forces by ſea and land.

The government being determined to ſend a body of regular forces to America, to act in conjunction with the provincial troops to be raiſed on that continent, it became neceſſary that the mutiny act ſhould be rendered more clear and comprehenſive.

When this bill therefore fell under the conſideration of the commons, a new clauſe was added, importing, that all officers and ſoldiers being muſtered and in pay, which

were or ſhould be raiſed in any of the Britiſh provinces in America, by authority of the reſpective governours or governments of ſuch colonies, ſhould, at all times and in all places, when they happened to join or act in conjunction with his majeſty's Britiſh forces, be liable to martial law and diſcipline, in like manner, to all intents and purpoſes, as the Britiſh forces were, and ſhould be ſubject to the ſame trials, penalties, and puniſhments.

The French court, notwithſtanding the vigour and diſpatch, with which they were equipping armaments and embarking troops for the proſecution of their ambitious ſchemes in America, ſtill continued to cajole the Britiſh miniſtry with general declarations of their pacific intentions, and and their deſire to preſerve the public tranquillity.

The earl of Albemarle, the Engliſh ambaſſador at Paris, having lately died in that city, theſe aſſurances were renewed to the court of London by the marquis de Mirepoix, who reſided in England with the ſame character, which he had ſupported, from the time of his firſt arrival, with the general applauſe of the nation.

On this occaſion he himſelf was ſo far deceived by the artful conduct of his own court,

court, that he actually believed their profeſſions to be ſincere, and ſtrenuouſly endeavoured to prevent a rupture between the two nations. At length, however, their preparations were ſo notorious, that they could be no longer concealed; and the Engliſh miniſtry produced ſuch proofs of their inſincerity, and double dealing, that the marquis ſeemed to be ſtruck with ſurprize and indignation. He forthwith went over to France, and upbraided the miniſtry of Verſailles with having made him the tool of their hypocriſy.

They referred him to the king, who ordered him to go back to England, with freſh aſſurances of his pacific diſpoſition; but his practices agreed ſo ill with his profeſſions, that the ambaſſador had ſcarcely returned to London, when undoubted intelligence arrived, that a powerful fleet was ready to ſail from Breſt and Rochfort.

The Britiſh miniſtry, arouſed by this information, immediately took the neceſſary meaſures for fitting out a ſquadron; and on the 23d day of April, admiral Boſcawen ſet ſail with eleven ſhips of the line and ſix frigates, having on board ſix thouſand land forces, to attend the motions of the enemy; but more certain and particular intelligence being brought with regard to the ſtrength

of the French fleet, which conſiſted of twenty-one ſhips of the line, beſides frigates and tranſports, with a great quantity of warlike ſtores, and four thouſand regular troops, under the command of baron Dieſkau, admiral Holborne was detached with ſix ſhips of the line and one frigate, to reinforce Mr. Boſcawen; and a great number of capital ſhips were put in commiſſion.

On the ſixth day of May the French fleet, commanded by Mr. Macnamara, an officer of Iriſh extraction, ſailed from Breſt, directing his courſe for North-America; but after having proceeded to a certain latitude, he returned with nine of the capital ſhips, while the reſt of the ſquadron continued their courſe under the direction of Mr. Bois de la Mothe.

On the twenty-fifth day of April his majeſty put an end to the ſeſſion with a ſpeech, in which, among other things, he informed them, that he had religiouſly adhered to the ſtipulations of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and made it his care not to injure or offend any power whatſoever; but that he could never entertain the thought of purchaſing the name of peace at the expence of ſuffering encroachments upon, or of yielding up, what juſtly belonged

longed to Great-Britain, either by ancient poſſeſſion or by ſolemn treaties: that the vigour and firmneſs of his parliament, on this important occaſion, had enabled him to be prepared for ſuch events as might happen: that if reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation could be procured, he would be ſatisfied, and, in all events, rely on the juſtice of his cauſe, the effectual ſupport of his people, and the protection of the divine Providence. The ſpeech being finiſhed, the lord chancellor, by his majeſty's command, prorogued the parliament.

Whilſt all Europe was in ſuſpence about the fate of the Engliſh and French ſquadrons, preparations for a war were carrying on in England with an unparalleled ſpirit of zeal and alacrity. Still the French court flattered itſelf, that Great Britain, anxious for the ſafety of his majeſty's German dominions, would refrain from hoſtilities. Mirepoix continued to have frequent conferences with the Britiſh miniſtry, who made no ſecret, that their admirals, particularly Boſcawen, had orders to fall upon the French ſhips, wherever they ſhould meet them. Mirepoix, alarmed at this intimation, declared, that his maſter would conſider ſuch a ſtep as a formal declaration of

of war; and that the firſt gun, that was fired, ſhould kindle all Europe into a flame.

This menace, far from intimidating the Engliſh, made them only redouble their preparations for war. A hot preſs for ſeamen was begun in all parts of this kingdom, as well as in Ireland; and great premiums were offered, not only by the government, but by all the conſiderable cities and towns in England, to ſuch as ſhould inliſt voluntarily in his majeſty's ſervice. Other branches of the public buſineſs were forwarded with equal ſpirit; and ſuch was the eagerneſs of the people to lend their money to the government, that, inſtead of one million, which was to be raiſed by way of lottery, almoſt four millions were immediately ſubſcribed.

Such, at this time, was the ſituation of affairs, that his majeſty's preſence in Germany was become abſolutely neceſſary; and many people were filled with the moſt terrible apprehenſions, leſt the French ſhould intercept him in his journey, or prevent his return. During the ſeſſion the earl Pawlet had made made a motion, humbly to repreſent to his majeſty, that it was an article in the original act of ſettlement, by which the ſucceſſion of theſe kingdoms devolved

volved to his electoral houſe, that the king ſhould not go to his foreign dominions without the conſent of parliament; and that this was a principal article in the contract between the crown and the people: that, though this article was repealed in the late reign, yet, till of late, it had always been the cuſtom for his majeſty to acquaint the parliament with his intended departure to his German dominions, both in regard to the true ſenſe and ſpirit of the act that placed him on the throne, as well as for the paternal kindneſs of his royal heart, and the condeſcenſion he had always been ſo good as to ſhew his parliament on all occaſions; but his majeſty's declaration of his deſign to viſit his electoral dominions had always been made on the laſt day of a ſeſſion, when it was too late for the great conſtitutional council of the crown to offer ſuch advice as might otherwiſe have been expedient and neceſſary: that his majeſty's leaving his kingdoms in a conjuncture ſo pregnant with diſtreſs, ſo denunciative of danger, would not only give the greateſt advantage to ſuch as might be diſpoſed to ſtir up diſaffection and diſcontent, and to the conſtitutional and natural enemies of England; but would alſo fill his loyal ſubjects with the moſt affecting

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concern, and moſt gloomy fears, as well for their own ſafety as for that of their ſovereign, whoſe invaluable life, at all times of the utmoſt conſequence to his people, was then infinitely ſo, by reaſon of his great experience, the affection of every one to his perſon, and the minority of the heir apparent. Such was the purport of this motion; but it was not ſupported by any of the other lords.

The great uneaſineſs, however, on account of his majeſty's departure, ſtill continued, and was, moreover, increaſed by an apprehenſion, that during his abſence, there would be little agreement among the lords of the regency, who were, his royal highneſs William duke of Cumberland; Thomas lord archbiſhop of Canterbury; Philip earl of Hardwicke, lord high chancellor; John earl of Granville, preſident of the council; Charles duke of Marlborough, lord privy-ſeal; John duke of Rutland, ſteward of the houſhold; Charles duke of Grafton, lord chamberlain; Archibald duke of Argyle; the duke of Newcaſtle, firſt commiſſioner of the treaſury; the duke of Dorſet, maſter of the horſe; the earl of Holderneſſe, one of the ſecretaries of ſtate; the earl of Rochford, groom of the ſtole; the marquis of Hartington, lord lieutenant

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of Ireland; lord Anſon, firſt commiſſioner of the admiralty: Sir Thomas Robinſon, ſecretary of ſtate; and Henry Fox, Eſq; ſecretary at war.

Admiral Boſcawen, having taken on board two regiments at Plymouth, directed his courſe towards the banks of Newfoundland; and in a few days after his arrival there, the French fleet came to the ſame ſtation, under the command of M. Bois de la Mothe. But the thick fogs, which prevail upon thoſe coaſts, eſpecially at that ſeaſon of the year, prevented the two ſquadrons from ſeeing each other; and part of the French fleet eſcaped up the river St. Lawrence, whilſt another part of them went round, and got into the ſame river through the ſtreights of Belleiſle, by a way which was never known to be attempted before by ſhips of the line.

Whilſt the Engliſh fleet, however, lay off Cape Race, which is the ſouthermoſt point of Newfoundland, and ſeemed to be the moſt proper ſtation for intercepting the enemy, two French ſhips, the Alcide of ſixty-four guns, and four hundred and eighty men, and the Lys, pierced for ſixty-four guns, but mounting only twenty-two, and having eight companies of land-forces on board, fell in with the Dunkirk, captain Howe,

Howe, and the Defiance, captain Andrews, two ſixty-gun ſhips of the Engliſh ſquadron; and, after a ſmart engagement, which laſted ſome hours, and in which captain, afterwards lord Howe, behaved with the greateſt ſkill and intrepity, were both of them taken, with ſeveral conſiderable officers and engineers, and about eight thouſand pounds in money.

Though this action was far from anſwering the expectation of the miniſtry, yet, when the news of it reached England, it was of great ſervice to the public credit of every kind, and animated the whole nation, who now ſaw plainly, that the government was reſolved to keep no farther meaſures with the French, but juſtly to repel force by force, and put a ſtop to the proſecution of their ambitious ſchemes in America.

The French, who, at firſt, affected to refrain from making repriſals on our ſhipping, would gladly have choſen to avoid a war at that time, and to have continued extending their encroachments on our ſettlements, till they had accompliſhed their grand ſcheme of eſtabliſhing a communication from the Miſſiſſippi to Canada by a line of forts, many of whch they had lately erected, and had deſtroyed one of ours on the Ohio; whilſt

whilſt they endeavoured to amuſe us with fruitleſs promiſes of aſcertaining exactly the boundaries of Nova Scotia.

No ſooner was the French miniſtry informed of this engagement, than the marquis de Mirepoix was recalled from London, and monſieur de Buſſy from Hanover, where he had juſt arrived to attend the king of England in a public character. They complained loudly of Boſcawen's attacking their ſhips, as a breach of national faith; but it was retorted on them, with irreſiſtible force, on the part of England, that the encroachments in America had rendered repriſals both juſtifiable and neceſſary. The reſolution of making them was not taken without mature deliberation in the Engliſh council.

The great encreaſe of the French marine of late years, which, in all probability, would ſoon be employed againſt Great Britain, very properly occaſioned an order for making repriſals general in Europe as well as in America; and that all French ſhips, whether outward or homeward bound, ſhould be ſtopt, and brought into Engliſh ports.

The better to inſure the execution of theſe orders, a reſolution was taken to employ thoſe admirals, who had become ſo popular by their courage and ſucceſs towards the

concluſion of the laſt war. Accordingly, on the twenty-fourth day of July, Sir Edward Hawke ſailed on a cruiſe to the weſtward with eighteen ſhips of the line, a frigate, and a ſloop; but, theſe ſhips not meeting with the French fleet, he returned to England about the latter end of September or the beginning of October: on the fourteenth of which laſt month another fleet, conſiſting of twenty two ſhips of the line, two frigates, and two ſloops, ſailed again on a cruiſe to the weſtward under admiral Byng, with a view to intercept the French ſquadron under Duguay, and likewiſe that commanded by la Mothe, in caſe of its return from America: but this fleet likewiſe returned to Spithead on the twenty ſecond day of November, without having been able to effect any thing, though it was allowed by all, that the admiral had acted judiciouſly in the choice of his ſtations.

While theſe meaſures were purſuing for the general ſecurity of the Britiſh coaſts and trade in Europe, ſeveral new ſhips of war were begun and carried on with the utmoſt expedition, in his majeſty's docks: twelve frigates and ſloops, contracted for in ſeveral yards, were compleated by the month of Auguſt; and twenty-four ſhips and twelve colliers were taken into the ſervice of the govern-

government, to be equipped as veſſels of war, and to carry twenty guns and a hundred and twenty men each.

In order the more effectually to animate the Engliſh ſailors, and encourage the workmen in the dock yards to proceed with alacrity, the duke of Cumberland went this ſummer to Portſmouth, where he was received with the greateſt honours; and the lord Anſon, with other lords of the admiralty, viſited that place, and ſeveral other ports of the kingdom, in order to forward the maritime preparations.

Mean while, the Engliſh cruiſers were ſo ſucceſsful in annoying the enemy, that, before the end of the year, they had taken three hundred of their merchant ſhips, and about eight thouſand of their ſailors. By theſe captures the Britiſh miniſtry anſwered many purpoſes: they deprived the French of a great body of ſeamen, and with-held from them a very large property, the want of which greatly diſtreſſed their people, and ruined many of their traders.

Their outward-bound merchant ſhips were inſured at the rate of thirty, and their homeward-bound at the rate of fifty per cent. while the Engliſh paid no more than the common inſurance. This intolerable burden was ſeverely felt by all ranks of people

amongſt them: their miniſtry was publicly reviled, even by their parliaments; and the French name, from being the terror, became the contempt of Europe.

In the beginning of this year, the aſſembly of Maſſachuſet's bay in New England paſſed an act, prohibiting all commerce with the French at Louiſburg; and early in the ſpring they raiſed a body of troops, which was tranſported to Nova Scotia, to co-operate with lieutenant-governour Laurence in driving the French from the forts they had occupied on the frontiers of that province.

Accordingly, about the latter end of May, the governour ſent a large body of troops, under the command of lieutenant colonel Monkton; and three frigates and a ſloop were ordered up the bay of Fundy, under the direction of captain Rous, to act in conjunction with the land forces. Monkton, upon his arrival at the river Maſſaguaſh, found the paſſage ſecured by a large number of French troops, Rebel Neutrals or Acadians, and Indians, four hundred and fifty of whom were poſted in a block-houſe, with cannon mounted on their ſide of the river; and the reſt were defended by a ſtrong breaſt work of timber, thrown up by way of out-work to the blockhouſe. This

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place the Engliſh attacked with ſuch impetuoſity, that, in an hour's time, the enemy were obliged to abandon it; by which means the paſſage of the river was immediately opened.

From thence colonel Monkton advanced to the French fort of Beau-Sejour, which, with his ſmall army, he inveſted on the twelfth day of June; and, after a bombard of four days, he compelled it to ſurrender, though the French had twenty-ſix pieces of cannon mounted, and plenty of ammunition, and the Engliſh had not yet placed a ſingle cannon upon their batteries. The garriſon was allowed to retire to Louiſburg, on condition of not bearing arms in America for the ſpace of ſix months; and the Acadians, who had joined the French, were indulged with a pardon, in conſideration of their having been forced into the ſervice.

Monkton, having ſecured this place with a garriſon, and changed its name into Fort Cumberland, continued his march ſtill farther into the country. He attacked and reduced the other French fort upon the river Gaſpereau, which runs into bay Verte; where he likewiſe found a large quantity of proviſions and ſtores of all kinds, that being the chief magazine for ſupplying the

French Indians and Acadians with arms, ammunition, and other neceſſaries.

He then diſarmed theſe laſt to the number of fifteen thouſand; and, in the mean time, captain Rous with his ſhips ſailed to the entrance of the river St. John, to attack the new fort, which the French had built there; but they ſaved him that trouble, by abandoning it upon his approach; after burſting their cannon, blowing up their magazine, and demoliſhing, as far as they had time, all the works they had lately raiſed. The Engliſh had but twenty men killed in the whole of this expedition, the ſucceſs of which, re-eſtabliſhed the tranquillity of Nova Scotia.

While the New Englanders were thus employed in humbling the French in Nova Scotia, the Virginians were no leſs buſy in making preparations for attacking them on the Ohio. They erected a fort, to which they likewiſe gave the name of Fort Cumberland, and formed a camp at Wills's Creek: and about the middle of January of this year, major general Braddock, with Dunbar's and Halket's regiments, repaired to Cork, where, embarking for Virginia, he arrived there in ſafety before the end of February.

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Braddock might therefore have entered upon action early in the ſpring, had not his operations been unfortunately retarded by the Virginian contractors for the army, who, when he was ready to begin his march, had neither procured a ſufficient quantity of proviſions for his army, nor a competent number of carriages for his baggage.

This was an accident, which might have been eaſily foreſeen by any perſon in the leaſt acquainted with the nature of our colonies in America: for the Virginians, who have no produce but their tobacco, and do not raiſe corn enough for their own ſubſiſtance, being, by the nature of their country, well provided with the convenience of water-conveyance, have but few wheel carriages or beaſts of burden; whereas Penſylvania, which abounds in corn, and moſt other ſorts of proviſion, has but little water carriage, eſpecially in its weſtern ſettlements, where the inhabitants have great numbers of carts, waggons, and horſes.

Theſe reaſons ought certainly to have induced Mr. Braddock to land in Penſylvania rather than Virginia. The contract for ſupplying his troops ſhould have been made with ſome of the chief planters in the former colony, who could eaſily have performed their engagements; and if his camp

camp had been formed near Frank's town, or ſomewhere upon the ſouth-weſt border of that province, his march from thence to Fort du Queſne would not have exceeded eighty miles, inſtead of a hundred and thirty, which he had to advance from Wills's-Creek, where he did encamp, through roads that were neither better nor more practicable than the other.

This error, in the very beginning of the expedition, to whatever cauſe it was owing, retarded the march of the army for ſome weeks; and would, in all probability, have entirely defeated the enterprize for that ſummer, had not the contractors found means to procure ſome aſſiſtance from the back ſettlements of Penſylvania. But even when theſe arrived, they conſiſted only of fifteen waggons, and one hundred draught horſes, inſtead of an hundred and fifty waggons and three hundred horſes, which the Virginian contractors had undertaken to furniſh, and the proviſions were ſo bad that they could not be uſed.

Another, and ſtill more capital, blunder was committed in the choice of the commander for this expedition. Major-general Braddock, who was appointed to conduct it, was undoubtedly a man of courage and reſolution; but he was haughty, poſitive, and

and difficult of acceſs; qualities ill ſuited to the tempers of the people, among whom he was to command.

By his extreme ſeverity in matters of diſcipline, he had incurred the hatred and averſion of the ſoldiers; and the ſtrict military principles, in which he had been educated, and to the obſervance of which he was too inflexibly attached, made him regard the American militia with great contempt; ſo that he was no leſs unpopular with the provincials than the regulars.

Before his departure from England, he received, in the hand writing of colonel Napier, a ſet of excellent inſtructions from the duke of Cumberland, and ſuch as did honour to the military ſkill of that prince. By theſe inſtructions, the attempt upon Niagara was, in a great meaſure, referred to him; and the reduction of Crown-Point was to be left chiefly to the provincial forces.

But, above all, his royal highneſs, both verbally, and in his writing, frequently adviſed him to be particularly careful of an ambuſh or ſurprize. Inſtead of profiting by this ſalutary advice, his conceit of his own abilities made him ſcorn to aſk the opinion of any of his officers; and the Indians, who would have been his ſafeſt guides through the dangerous defiles he

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was obliged to pass, were so disgusted by the haughtiness of his behaviour, that most of them, in a short time, abandoned his standard.

Labouring under these manifold disadvantages, he began his march from Fort Cumberland on the tenth day of June, at the head of about two thousand men, for the meadows, where colonel Washington had been defeated in the preceding year. Upon his arrival at that place, he learned, that the French at Fort Du Quesne, which had been lately built on the river of the same name, near its confluence with the Monangahela, were waiting for a reinforcement of five hundred regular troops.

This induced him to quicken his march. Accordingly, that he might advance with the greater dispatch, he left colonel Dunbar, with eight hundred men, to bring up the provisions, stores, and heavy baggage, as fast as the nature of the service would permit; while he himself, with the other twelve hundred, together with ten pieces of cannon, and the necessary ammunition and provisions, prosecuted his march with so much expedition, that he seldom took any care to reconnoitre the woods and thickets through which he was to pass.

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On the eighth day of July he arrived within ten miles of Fort Du Queſne; and though colonel Dunbar was then near ſixty miles behind him, and his officers, particularly Sir Peter Halket, earneſtly beſought him to proceed with circumſpection, and to employ the friendly Indians in his army by way of advanced guard, in caſe of ambuſcades; he yet reſumed his march the next day, without ſo much as endeavouring to procure the leaſt intelligence of the ſituation and diſpoſition of the enemy, or even taking the neceſſary precaution to ſend out ſcouts to viſit the roads and thickets, which lay on both ſides of him, as well as in his front.

With this ſupine negligence was he advancing, when, about noon, he was ſaluted with a general diſcharge upon his front, and all along his left flank, from an enemy ſo artfully concealed among trees and buſhes, that not one of them could poſſibly be diſcovered, and who had cunningly given the whole army time to enter the defile before they began to fire. The van guard was immediately ſeized with a panic, and falling back upon the main body, threw them into irretrievable confuſion; ſo that moſt of them fled with the utmoſt precipitation, notwithſtanding all that their officers,

ficers, ſome of whom behaved very gallantly, could do to ſtop them.

As to Braddock himſelf, he diſcovered at once the greateſt intrepidity and the higheſt imprudence; for, inſtead of ordering a retreat, till he could ſcour the thickets and buſhes from whence the fire came, with grape-ſhot from the ten pieces of cannon he had with him, or cauſing flanking parties of his Indians to advance againſt the enemy, he obſtinately continued upon the ſpot where he was, and gave orders for the few brave officers and men, who remained with him, to form regularly, and march on to the attack.

Meanwhile, his men fell thick about him, and almoſt all his officers were ſingled out, one after another, and killed or wounded; for the Indians, who always take aim when they fire, and chiefly aim at the officers, eaſily diſtinguiſhed them by their dreſs.

At laſt the general, whoſe obſtinacy ſeemed to encreaſe with the danger, after having had five horſes ſhot under him, received a muſket ſhot through his right arm and lungs, of which he died four days after, having been carried off the field by the bravery of lieutenant-colonel Gage and another of his officers. When he dropped

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the confuſion of the few that remained was turned into a precipitate and diſorderly flight, though no enemy appeared, or attempted to purſue them.

All the artillery, ammunition and baggage, fell into the hands of the enemy, who likewiſe made prize of the general's cabinet, with all his letters and inſtructions, of which the French court afterwards availed themſelves in their preſented memorials and declarations.

But what, of all other circumſtances, was the moſt remarkable, the Provincials, ſo much deſpiſed by the general, that he always made them march in the rear, where not only leſs affected with the pannic, and preſerved their ranks better than the regulars, though the fire fell as heavy upon them as upon any of the reſt, but even offered to cover the fugitives; and when the latter refuſed to ſtand their ground, ſaying, that, though they were willing to advance againſt an open enemy, they would not ruſh blindly on againſt brakes and buſhes, that were lined with unſeen deſtruction; the former alone bravely formed, and advanced againſt the Indians; to which gallant conduct it was owing that the regulars were not entirely deſtroyed.

The loss of the English in this unfortunate rencounter, amounted to about one half of the army. The officers, in particular, suffered much more than in the ordinary proportion of battles in Europe. Sir Peter Halket was killed by the very first fire, at the head of his regiment; and the general's secretary, son to governour Shirley, soon after met with the same fate.

Neither the number of men, which the enemy had in the engagement, nor the loss they sustained, could ever be discovered: but the French afterwards pretended, that their number, in the whole, did not amount to above four hundred men, mostly Indians; and that their loss was altogether inconsiderable, as it probably was, because they lay concealed in such a manner, that the English knew not whither to point their muskets.

The flight of these last was so precipitate, that they never stopped till they met the rear division, which was instantly seized with the same pannic; so that the army retreated without halting till they arrived at Fort Cumberland, though the enemy did not endeavour to pursue, nor even appeared in sight, either in the battle, or after the defeat.

On the whole, this was perhaps the most extraordinary victory that ever was gained, and

and the fartheſt retreat that ever was made. This ſeems to be the cleareſt account that has yet been given of this unhappy affair, which, though recent in memory, is darker, and related with a greater variety of circumſtances than could have been expected of an event, which had happened in the moſt remote ages.

Had the ſhattered remains of the army continued at Fort Cumberland, and fortified themſelves in that place, as they might eaſily have done, during the reſt of the ſummer, they would have been ſuch a check upon the French and their ſcalping Indians, as would have prevented many of thoſe inhuman barbarities that were committed in the ſequel upon the weſtern borders of Virginia and Penſylvania; but, inſtead of embracing that prudent reſolution, colonel Dunbar, who now commanded, left only the ſick and wounded at that fort, under the protection of two companies of the provincial militia, poſted there by way of garriſon, and began his march, on the ſecond day of Auguſt, with about fourteen hundred men, for Philadelphia; where theſe forces could be of no immediate uſe, and from whence they were ordered away to Albany in New-York, by general Shirley, who, upon the death of Mr. Braddock, had

ſucceeded to the chief command of the troops in America.

By theſe means, Virginia, Maryland, and Penſylvania, were left entirely to take care of themſelves; and this indeed they might have eaſily done, had they been united in their councils: but the old diſputes, between their governours and aſſemblies, ſtill continued to prevail, and defeated every ſalutary plan that was propoſed for their ſecurity.

Penſylvania, the moſt rich and powerful of the three, was, by theſe unhappy diviſions, rendered quite incapable of providing either for its own defence or that of its neighbours; though, at laſt, the aſſembly of that province, ſenſible of the danger, which threatened their territories, and convinced of the abſolute neceſſity of maintaining a ſtanding military force, and of erecting ſome forts to defend their weſtern frontiers, paſſed a bill for raiſing fifty thouſand pounds.

But even this ſum, ſmall as it was, conſidering the wealth of the province, and the extent of its frontier, could not be obtained; the governour poſitively refuſing to give his aſſent to the act of the aſſembly, becauſe they had taxed the proprietaries eſtates, equally with thoſe of the inhabitants, an impoſition, he ſaid, to which he was

was ordered by his inſtructions not to conſent, nor indeed to any new tax upon the proprietaries; and the aſſembly, compoſed chiefly of members, whoſe eſtates lay in the eaſtern or interior parts of the province, as poſitively inſiſting upon paſſing the bill in its preſent form.

Our colonies to the north of Penſylvania were more unanimous, and more diligent in their warlike preparations. New-York, in imitation of the province of New-England, paſſed an act, prohibiting all commerce with any French port or ſettlement on the continent of North-America, or any of the adjacent iſlands; and alſo for raiſing forty-five thouſand pounds, on eſtates real and perſonal, for the better defence of their colony, which lay more open than any other to a French invaſion from Crown-Point.

This ſum, however, great as it might ſeem to them, was by no means ſufficient for the intended purpoſe; nor indeed could they have provided properly for their own ſecurity, without the aſſiſtance of the more eaſtern colonies: but with their help, and the additional ſuccour of the few regular troops, which were expected to arrive under colonel Dunbar, they boldly reſolved upon offenſive meaſures, which, when practicable,

are always the beſt means of defence; and two expeditions, one againſt the French fort at Crown-Point, and the other againſt their fort at Niagara, between the lakes Erie and Ontario, were propoſed to be undertaken at the ſame time.

The execution of the firſt of theſe was committed to the care of colonel, afterwards general Johnſon, a native of Ireland, who had long reſided upon the Mohock river, in the weſtern parts of New York, where he had acquired a conſiderable eſtate, and was univerſally beloved not only by the inhabitants, but alſo by the neighbouring Indians, whoſe language he had learned, and whoſe affections he had gained by the humanity of his temper and the equity of his dealings. The expedition againſt Niagara was directed by general Shirley himſelf.

The troops, deſtined for both theſe enterprizes were appointed to aſſemble at Albany, where moſt of them arrived before the end of June; but the artillery, battoes, proviſions, and other neceſſaries for the attempt upon Crown-Point could not be got ready till the eighth of Auguſt, when general Johnſon ſet out with them from Albany for the Carrying place, at Lake George, where the troops had already arrived under the

the command of major-general Lyman, and amounted to between five and ſix thouſand men, beſides Indians, raiſed by the governments of Boſton, Connecticut, New Hampſhire, Rhode Iſland, and New York.

Every thing was now prepared for the march with as much expedition as poſſible; and towards the latter end of the month general Johnſon advanced with his troops about fourteen miles forward, and encamped in a very ſtrong ſituation, ſecured on each ſide by a thick woody ſwamp, by Lake George in his rear, and by a breaſt work of trees, cut down for that purpoſe, in his front. Here he propoſed to wait the arrival of his battoes, and afterwards to proceed to Ticonderoga, at the other end of the lake, from whence it was but fourteen miles to the fort at the ſouth end of the Lake Corlaer, or Champlain, called Fort Frederic by the French, and by us Crown-Point.

Whilſt he remained on this ſpot, ſome of his Indian ſcouts, of which he took care every day to ſend out a ſufficient number, brought him intelligence, that a conſiderable body of the enemy where advancing from Ticonderoga, by the way of the ſouth bay towards the ſmall fort, ſince called Fort Edward, which general Lyman had built at the Carrying-place, and in which be-

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tween four and five hundred of the New Hampshire and New York men were left as a garrison.

The general was no sooner informed of this circumstance, than he sent two expresses, one after the other, to colonel Blanchard, their commander, ordering him to call in all his detached parties, and to keep his whole force within their entrenchments. About twelve at night, those, who had been sent with the second express, returned, with an account of their having seen the enemy within four miles of the camp at the Carrying place, which they scarcely doubted of their having by this time attacked.

Early in the morning the general called a council of war, in which it was resolved to send a thousand men, with a number of Indians, to intercept the enemy in their retreat, either as victors, or as disappointed in their design; and this body accordingly began its march between eight and nine o'clock, under the command of colonel Williams: but they had not been gone above two hours, when those in the camp heard a close firing, at the distance of about three or four miles, as they imagined. As it approached nearer and nearer, they rightly conjectured, that the detachment was repulsed and retreating towards the camp; and

and this opinion was preſently confirmed by ſome fugitives, and ſoon after by whole companies, who fled back in great confuſion.

In a very ſhort time the enemy appeared, advancing in a regular order to the center of the camp, where the conſternation was ſo great, that if they had attacked it directly, the moſt fatal conſequences would probably have enſued; but, happily for the Engliſh, they halted a little at about a hundred and fifty yards diſtance, and from thence began their attack with platoon firing, which was too far off to do any great harm, eſpecially upon troops who were defended by a ſtrong breaſt-work.

On the contrary, this ineffectual fire ſerved only to raiſe the ſpirits of the Engliſh, who having prepared their artillery during the interval, began to play it ſo furiouſly upon the enemy, that the Canadians and Indians in the French ſervice fled immediately into the woods, on each ſide of the camp, and there ſquatted behind buſhes, or ſkulked behind trees, from whence they continued to fire with very little execution, moſt of their ſhot being intercepted by the brakes and thickets; for they never had the courage to advance to the verge of the wood.

Baron

Baron Dieſkau, the French commander, being thus left alone with his regular troops, and finding it impoſſible with his ſmall number of men to make any impreſſion upon the center of the camp, moved firſt to the left, and then to the right, at both which places he endeavoured to force a paſſage; but being unſupported by the irregulars, and terribly galled by the Engliſh artillery, he was at laſt obliged to deſiſt from the attempt.

Inſtead of retreating, as he ought in prudence to have done, he ſtill continued his platoon and buſh-firing, till four o'clock in the afternoon, during wich time, his regular troops ſuffered greatly by the fire from the camp, and were at length thrown into confuſion; a circumſtance that was no ſooner perceived by general Johnſon's men, than, without waiting for orders, they jumped over the breaſt-work, attacked the enemy on all ſides, and, after killing or taking a conſiderable number of them, entirely diſperſed the reſt.

Of the French, whoſe numbers at the beginning of the action, amounted to about two thouſand, between ſeven and eight hundred were killed, and thirty taken priſoners; and among theſe laſt, baron Dieſkau himſelf, who was found at a little

little diſtance from the field of battle, dangerouſly wounded, and leaning on the ſtump of a tree for his ſupport.

The loſs of the Engliſh exceeded not two hundred men, and theſe chiefly of the detachment under colonel Williams; for they had very few either killed or wounded in the attack upon the camp, and not any of diſtinction, except colonel Titcomb killed, and the general himſelf and major Nichols wounded. Among the ſlain of the detachment were colonel Williams, major Aſhley, ſix captains, and ſeveral ſubalterns, beſides private men; and the Indians reckoned, that they had loſt forty men, among whom, was the brave old Hendrick, the Mohock Sachem, or chief captain.

When baron Dieſkau departed from Ticonderoga, his deſign was to ſurprize and cut off the ſmall garriſon at the intrenched camp, now called Fort Edward, at the carrying place; but, when he arrived within four or five miles of that fort, his people were informed, that there were ſeveral cannon there, but none at the large camp: upon which they all deſired to be led to this laſt, a requeſt with which he the more readily complied, as he himſelf had been told by an Engliſh priſoner, who had left this camp but a few days before, that it was quite

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To this lucky miſtake it was owing, that the detachment at Fort Edward was not entirely deſtroyed. Some of them, indeed, even after all, had nearly ſhared that unhappy fate. One hundred and twenty of them had been detached under the command of captain M'Ginnes, as a reinforcement to the army at the camp.

This party fell in with between three and four hundred of Dieſkau's troops, near the ſpot, where colonel Williams's had been defeated the day before: but M'Ginnes, having been previouſly apprized of their approach, had made ſuch diſpoſitions, that he not only repulſed, but even defeated and diſperſed them with the loſs only of two men killed, eleven wounded, and five miſſing. The captain himſelf unfortunately died of the wounds he received in this action, a few days after he arrived at the camp with his party.

It was now thought too late in the year to proceed to the attack of Crown Point, as it would have been neceſſary, in that caſe,

caſe, to build a fort in the place, where the camp then was, in order to preſerve a communication with Albany, from whence only the troops could expect to be reinforced, or ſupplied with freſh ſtores of ammunition and proviſions. A reſolution was therefore taken to delay the attempt till next year, and in the mean time, to return to Albany, for which place the general immediately ſet out with his whole army. Though the expedition had failed in its main object, the general's conduct had been at once ſo prudent and ſpirited, that it was highly applauded, not only by the Americans, but likewiſe by the whole Engliſh nation. He was honoured with the dignity of a baronet, and gratified with a preſent of five thouſand pounds from the Britiſh parliament.

Governour Shirley had not the good fortune to meet with the ſame approbation. The preparations for his expedition were not only deficient, but ſhamefully ſlow; though it was well known, that his ſucceſs muſt, in a great meaſure, depend upon his beginning his operations early in the ſpring; as may be eaſily inferred from the ſituation of our fort at Oſwego, this being the only way by which he could proceed to Niagara.

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Oſwego lies on the ſouth eaſt ſide of the lake Ontario, near three hundred miles almoſt due weſt from Albany in New York. The way to it from thence, though long and tedious, is the more convenient, as the far greateſt part of it is provided with water-carriage, by what the inhabitants call battoes, which are a kind of light flat-bottomed boats, wideſt in the middle, and pointed at each end, and managed by two men, called battoe-men, with paddles and ſetting poles, the river being, in many places, too narrow to admit of oars.

From Albany to the village of Shenectady, which is ſixteen miles, is a good waggon road. From thence to the little falls in the Mohock river, being ſixty-five miles, the paſſage is by water-carriage up that river, and conſequently againſt the ſtream, which in many places is ſomewhat rapid, and in others ſo ſhallow, that the watermen are obliged to get out, and draw their battoes over the flats.

At the little falls is a portage or land-carriage, for about a mile, over a ground ſo ſwampy, that it will not admit of wheel-carriage; but a colony of Germans, ſettled there, attend with ſledges, on which they draw the loaded battoes to the

next

next place of embarkation upon the ſame river.

From thence they proceed by water up that river, for fifty miles, to the carriage-place, near the head of it, where there is another portage, which is longer or ſhorter, in proportion to the dryneſs of the ſeaſon, but is generally about ſix or eight miles over in the ſummer ſeaſon. Here the battoes are again carried upon ſledges, till they come to a narrow river called Wood's Creek, down which they are waſted on a gentle ſtream, for about forty miles, into the lake Oneyada, which extends from eaſt to weſt about thirty miles, and is eaſily paſſed in calm weather.

At the weſtern end of this lake is the river Onondaga, which, after a courſe of between twenty and thirty miles, falls into the river Cayuga, or Seneca; and their united ſtream runs into the lake Ontario, at the place where Oſwego-fort is ſituated. But this river is ſo rapid as to be ſometimes dangerous, beſides its being full of flats and rocks; and about twelve miles on this ſide of Oſwego there is a fall of eleven feet perpendicular, where there is of courſe a carrying place, which, however, does not exceed forty yards. From thence the paſſage to Oſwego is free and open.

The lake Ontario, on the ſide of which the fort ſtands, is near two hundred and eighty leagues in circumference; its figure is oval, and its depth runs from twenty to twenty-five fathoms. On the north ſide of it are ſeveral little gulphs. There is a communication between this lake and that of the Hurons by the river Tanaſuate, from whence is a portage of ſix or eight leagues to the river Toronto, which falls into it.

The French had built two forts of conſequence on this lake; Frontignac, which commands the river St. Laurence, where the lake communicates with it; and Niagara, which commands the communication of the lake Ontario and the lake Erie. But of theſe forts, and this laſt lake, which is one of the fineſt in the world, we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak in the ſequel.

From the above deſcription of the paſſage between Albany and Oſwego, it is evident how neceſſary it was that the troops deſtined for this expedition ſhould have ſet out early in the ſpring. But, inſtead of that, the very firſt of them, colonel Schuyler's New Jerſey regiment, did not begin their march till towards the middle of July; and juſt as Shirley's and Pepperel's regiments were beginning to follow, the melancholy account of Braddock's defeat arrived at Albany, where

when it ſtruck ſuch a damp upon the ſpirits of the ſoldiers, that many of them deſerted, and moſt of the battoe-men diſperſed and ran home, by which means a ſufficient quantity of neceſſary ſtores could not be carried along with the troops.

Notwithſtanding this diſappointment, general Shirley, at the head of about two thouſand five hundred men, ſet out from Albany before the end of July, with as much of the ſtores and ammunition as could poſſibly be conveyed, hoping to be joined in his march by great numbers of the Indians of the ſix nations, to whom he ſent invitations for that purpoſe, as he paſſed by their ſettlements: but, inſtead of complying with his deſire, they abſolutely declared againſt all hoſtilities on that ſide of the country, and inſiſted that Oſwego, being a place of trade and commerce, ought not to be diſturbed either by the French or Engliſh, as if they could have perſuaded both nations to agree to a neutrality for this particular ſpot.

Mr. Shirley, ſeeing his ſolicitations in vain, proceeded afterwards, being joined by very few Indians, and arrived at Oſwego on the ſeventeenth or eighteenth day of Auguſt; but the reſt of the troops and artillery did not join him till the laſt day of that month;

and even then, their ſtore of proviſions was ſo ſmall, that they could not proceed againſt Niagara, though ſome tolerable good veſſels had by this time been built and prepared for that purpoſe.

The general now determined to take but ſix hundred men with him for the attack of Niagara, and to leave the reſt of his army at Oſwego, to defend that place, in caſe the French ſhould attack it in his abſence; an attempt, which they were the more likely to make, as they had then a conſiderable force at Fort Frontignac, from whence they could eaſily croſs over the lake Ontario to Oſwego.

Nevertheleſs, he was ſtill obliged to wait at Oſwego for proviſions, of which at length a ſmall ſupply arrived on the twenty-ſixth day of September; but this was barely ſufficient to ſupport his men during their intended expedition, and to allow twelve days ſhort ſubſiſtance for thoſe he left behind. Add to this, that the rainy boiſterous ſeaſon had begun, on which account moſt of his Indians had already left him, and were returned home; and the few that remained with him, declared, that it was impoſſible to croſs the lake Ontario at that ſeaſon, or any time before the next ſummer.

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In these circumstances he summoned a council of war, which, after mature deliberation, unanimously agreed to defer the attempt upon Niagara till the next year, and to employ the troops, whilst they continued at Oswego, in building barracks, and erecting, or, at least, beginning to erect, two new forts; one to be called Ontario Fort, on the east side of the river Onondaga, four hundred and fifty yards distant from the old fort, which it was to command as well as the entrance of the harbour; and the other four hundred and fifty yards west of the old fort, to be called Oswego Fort.

These measures being concerted, general Shirley, with the greatest part of the troops under his command, set out on his return to Albany, on the twenty-fourth day of October; leaving colonel Mercer, with a garrison of about seven hundred men, at Oswego. Such was the conclusion of this unfortunate campaign, at least on the side of the English; for the French, with the assistance of their Indian allies, continued their murders, plundering, burning, and laying waste the western frontier of Virginia and Pensylvania, during the whole winter.

Mean while the ministers of the two contending powers were busily employed at most of the courts of Europe; but their transf-

tranſactions were kept extremely ſecret. The French endeavoured to infuſe into the Spaniards a jealouſy of the ſtrength of the Engliſh by ſea, eſpecially in America; and the Spaniſh court ſeemed inclined to undertake the office of mediator: but Mr. Wall, who was perfectly acquainted with the ſtate of affairs between England and France, ſeconded the repreſentations of the Britiſh miniſtry, which demonſtrated, that however willing Great Britain might be to accept of the mediation of Spain, ſhe could not agree to any ſuſpenſion of arms in America, which France demanded as a preliminary article, without endangering the whole of her intereſt in that part of the world; and that the captures, which had been made by the Engliſh, were the neceſſary conſequence of the encroachments and injuſtice of the French.

Upon this all farther mention of the mediation of Spain was laid aſide; and the miniſtry of Verſailles had recourſe to the princes of Germany; among whom they found means to bring over to their intereſt the elector of Cologne, who agreed to their forming magazines in his territories in Weſtphalia.

This was a plain intimation of their deſign againſt Hanover, which they, ſoon after, made his Britannic majeſty, who was then

then in his electoral dominions, an offer of ſparing, upon his promiſing that affairs ſhould be adjuſted to their ſatisfaction in America: but this propoſal being rejected with diſdain, the count d'Aubeterre, envoy extraordinary from France at the court of Vienna, entered into a ſecret negociation with the miniſters of the empreſs queen; and gave broad intimations, that if ſhe would ſecond the views of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, ſhe might command all that was in his power againſt the king of Pruſſia.

The ſecret articles of the treaty of Peterſburg, between the two empreſſes, had ſtipulated a kind of partition of the Pruſſian territories: but his Britannic majeſty, tho' often invited, had always refuſed to agree to ſuch an iniquitous ſtipulation; and the king of Poland, though much inclined to favour the ſcheme, did not dare to avow it formally, till matters ſhould be more ripe for carrying it into execution.

The court of Vienna, who had originally projected this partition, began to give ear to Aubeterre's inſinuations, and, by degrees, entered into negociations with him, which, in the end, were productive of that unnatural confederacy between the empreſs queen and the king of France;

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of which we ſhall have occaſion to make farther mention among the occurrences of next year, when the treaty between them, in which they afterwards found means ſecretly to engage the empreſs of Ruſſia, was concluded at Verſailles.

As it was univerſally believed, even at the time of his Britannic majeſty's ſetting out for his German dominions, that the French would endeavour to invade Hanover, in caſe of a war between them and England, which ſeemed not only inevitable, but near at hand; it was natural for his majeſty to make ſuch alliances among the princes of Germany, as might moſt effectually ſecure his poſſeſſions on the continent.

For this purpoſe, during his ſtay at Hanover, he concluded on the eighteenth day of June, a treaty with the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, by which his ſerene highneſs engaged to hold in readineſs, during four years, for his majeſty's ſervice, a body of eight thouſand men, to be employed, if required, upon the continent, or in Britain, or Ireland; but not on board the fleet, or beyond the ſeas: and alſo, if his Britannic majeſty ſhould judge it neceſſary or advantageous for his ſervice, to furniſh and join to this body of eight thouſand men,

within

within ſix months after they ſhould be demanded, four thouſand more, of which ſeven hundred were to be horſe or dragoons, and each regiment of infantry to have two field pieces.

The king of England, on his ſide, promiſed to pay to the landgrave, for theſe ſuccours, eighty crowns banco, by way of levy-money, for every trooper or dragoon duly armed and mounted, and thirty crowns banco for every foot ſoldier; the crown to be reckoned at fifty-three ſols Holland, or at four ſhillings and nine pence three-farthings Engliſh money: and alſo to pay to his ſerene highneſs, for the eight thouſand men, an annual ſubſidy of an hundred and fifty thouſand crowns banco, during the four years, to commence from the day of ſigning the treaty; which ſubſidy was to be encreaſed to three hundred thouſand crowns yearly, from the time of requiring the troops, to the time of their entering into Britiſh pay; and, in caſe of their being diſmiſſed, the ſaid ſubſidy of three hundred thouſand crowns was then to revive, and be continued during the reſidue of the term: but, if twelve thouſand men were demanded and furniſhed, the ſubſidy was then to be encreaſed to four hundred and fifty thouſand crowns banco, and, in caſe the

the king of Great-Britain ſhould, at any time, think fit to ſend back thoſe troops, before the expiration of the treaty, notice of his intention was to be given to his ſerene highneſs three months before-hand; one month's pay was to be allowed them for their return, and they were to be furniſhed gratis with the neceſſary tranſport veſſels.

Another treaty was begun with Ruſſia about the ſame time, but this did not take effect during his majeſty's reſidence at Hanover. On the fifteenth day of July an expreſs arrived from admiral Boſcawen, with an account of his having taken two French ſhips of war, the Lys and the Alcide.

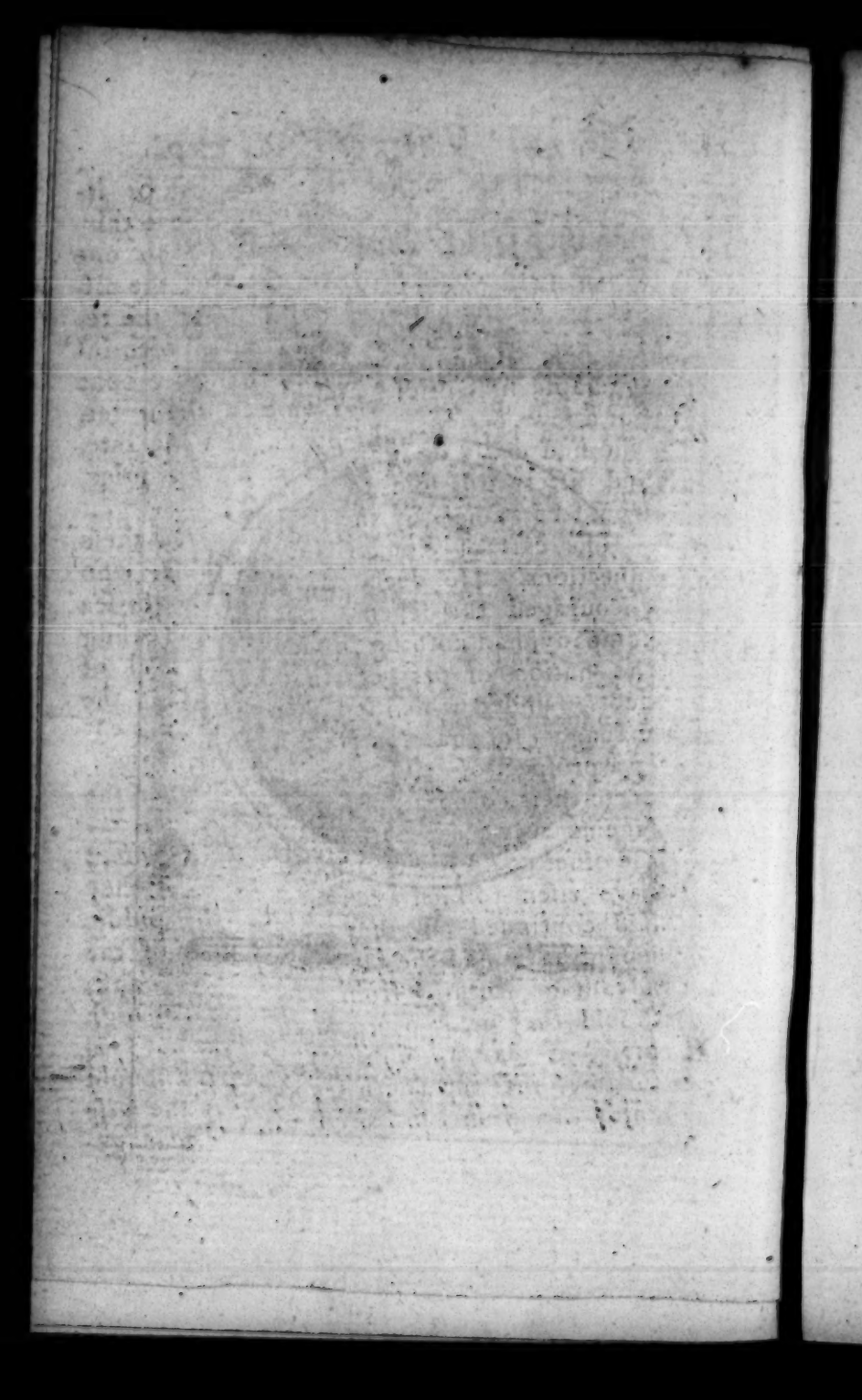
In a few days after, Sir Edward Hawke ſailed from Portſmouth, with eighteen men of war, to watch the return of the French fleet from America, which, however, eſcaped him, and got ſafe into the harbour of Breſt.

On the thirteenth day of Auguſt commodore Keppel departed from Spithead for the Weſt-Indies, with four men of war, furniſhed with inſtructions to commit hoſtilities upon the enemy, as well as to protect our ſugar iſlands from any inſults they might offer: orders were iſſued to all our

ſhips

ADMIRAL HAWKE.

Engrav'd for Rider's History of England



ſhips of war to make repriſals upon the French, by ſeizing their ſhips wherever they ſhould meet them; and the duke de Mirepoix, their ambaſſador at the court of London, immediately ſet out for Paris, without taking leave.

A war being thus, in ſome meaſure, commenced, his majeſty thought proper, perhaps for that reaſon, to return to his Britiſh dominions ſooner than uſual; for he left Hanover on the eighth day of September, and arrived at Kenſington on the fifteenth, where the treaty of alliance between him and the empreſs of Ruſſia, which he had begun during his abſence, was ſigned on the laſt day of the ſame month. By this treaty her Ruſſian majeſty engaged to hold in readineſs in Livonia, upon the frontiers of Lithuania, a body of troops, conſiſting of fifty-five thouſand men, with the neceſſary artillery; and alſo, on the coaſts of the ſaid province, forty or fifty gallies with the requiſite crews; to be ready to act, upon the firſt order, in his Britannic majeſty's ſervice, in caſe his dominions in Germany ſhould be invaded on account of diſputes, which regarded his kingdoms; her Imperial majeſty declaring, that ſhe would look upon ſuch an invaſion as a *Caſus fœderis* of the year 1742; and that the ſaid dominions ſhould

be therein comprehended in this reſpect: but neither theſe troops nor gallies were to be put in motion, unleſs his Britannic majeſty, or his allies, ſhould be ſomewhere attacked; in which caſe the Ruſſian general ſhould march, as ſoon as poſſible after requiſition, to make a diverſion with thirty thouſand infantry and fifteen thouſand cavalry, and ſhould embark on board the gallies the other ten thouſand infantry, to make a deſcent where it ſhould be judged moſt proper.

In conſideration of theſe ſuccours, his Britannic majeſty engaged to pay to the empreſs of Ruſſia an annual ſubſidy of one hundred thouſand pounds ſterling a year, each year to be paid in advance, and to be reckoned from the day of the ratification, to the day that theſe troops ſhould, upon requiſition, go out of Ruſſia; from which day the annual ſubſidy to her Imperial majeſty was to be encreaſed to five hundred thouſand pounds ſterling, to be paid always four months in advance, until the troops ſhould return into the Ruſſian dominions, and for three months after their return.

His Britannic majeſty, who was to be at liberty to ſend once every year into the ſaid province of Livonia a commiſſary to ſee and examine the number and condition of the ſaid troops,

troops, further engaged, that, in caſe her Ruſſian majeſty ſhould be diſturbed in giving this aſſiſtance, or attacked, he would furniſh immediately the ſuccours ſtipulated in the treaty of 1742; and that, in caſe a war ſhould break out, he would ſend into the Baltick a ſquadron of his ſhips, of a force proportioned to the exigency of affairs.

That his Britannic majeſty, who knew enough of the court of Vienna to be ſenſible, that, in caſe his German dominions were invaded, he could expect no aſſiſtance from that quarter, ſhould enter into a convention with the empreſs of Ruſſia, in order to ſecure his poſſeſſions on the continent, was extremely natural; eſpecially as he had lately maintained a very friendly correſpondence with her, and her tranſactions with the court of France, by paſſing only through that of Vienna, had been kept ſo ſecret, that he had not yet been informed of them; and as the purport of the treaty of Verſailles had not then come to his knowledge, nor to that of the king of Pruſſia, and neither of theſe princes had yet made any formal advances to each other.

The firſt intimation, which the public received, of the negociations of France with the empreſs of Germany, was, when the French miniſter, the count D'Aubeterre,

declared at Vienna, that the warlike designs, with which the king his master was charged, were sufficiently confuted by his great moderation, of which all Europe had manifold proofs: that his majesty was persuaded, that this groundless charge had given as much indignation to their Imperial majesties as to himself: that he was firmly resolved to preserve to Europe that tranquillity, which it enjoyed through his fidelity in religiously observing the treaty of Aix la Chapelle; but that, if his Britannic majesty's allies took part in the war, which was kindled in America, his majesty would be authorised to consider and treat them as principals in it.

The French likewise made the same declaration to the other courts of Europe. They endeavoured too, once more, to engage the Spaniards in their quarrel. They complained loudly at the court of Madrid of the taking of their two men of war by Boscawen's squadron, before any declaration of war was made, representing it as a most unjustifiable proceeding, which threatened a dissolution of all faith among nations.

This produced a spirited memorial from Sir Benjamin Keene, our minister at that court, importing, that it was well known, that the French fleet carried troops, ammunition, and every thing necessary for defending the

the countries, which the French had unjuſtly ſeized in America, and of which the Engliſh claimed the property: that the rules of ſelf-defence authoriſe every nation to defeat any attempt that may tend to its prejudice: that this right had been made uſe of only in taking the two French men of war: and that the diſtinction of place might be interpreted in favour of the Engliſh, ſeeing the two ſhips were taken on the coaſts of the countries where the conteſt aroſe.

In anſwer to this memorial the French miniſter repreſented the vaſt number of ſhips that had been taken in the European ſeas; but the court of Madrid were ſo far from being miſled by any thing he could ſay, that it gave his Britannic majeſty the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of its friendſhip, and of its intention to take no part in the differences between him and France, but ſuch as ſhould be reconciliatory, and tending to reſtore the public tranquiliity.

Meanwhile, his Britannic majeſty required, as king of Great-Britain, the auxiliaries ſtipulated to him by treaty from the empreſs-queen: but theſe were flatly refuſed, under pretence, that as the conteſt between him and France related to America only, it was not a *caſus fœderis*; though

at the same time the French made no scruple of owning, that they intended to make a powerful descent upon Great-Britain early in the spring.

Nay, when a little after, France being employed in making great preparations for a land war in Europe, the king of England required her to defend her own possessions, the Austrian Netherlands, with the number of men stipulated by treaty, which countries, acquired by English blood and English treasure, had been given to her on that express condition, she refused to do it, alledging, that she could not spare troops for that purpose, on account of the dangerous neighbourhood of the king of Prussia; and when, afterwards, that danger was removed by the treaty between his Prussian majesty and the king of England, she urged that very circumstance as a pretext for her unnatural alliance with France.

Though the English continued to distress the French trade, not only in the seas of America, but also in those of Europe, by taking every ship they could meet with, and detaining them, their crews, and cargoes; yet the French, partly from a consciousness of their want of power by sea, partly that they might have a pretext to represent England as the aggressor, were so far from retorting

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ing these hostilities, that their fleet, which returned from America, having, on the thirteenth of August, taken the Blandford man of war, with governour Lyttleton on board, going to Carolina; they set the governour at liberty, as soon as the court was informed of the ship's being brought into Nantes, and, in a short time after, released both the ship and crew.

The intention, however, of this artifice, was easily discovered; especially as their preparations for a land-war were still carried on with redoubled diligence, and their utmost arts and efforts were employed to persuade the Spaniards and Dutch to join them.

The English were not behind-hand with them in making preparations for the approaching rupture: several new ships were put in commission, and many others taken into the service of the government: the exportation of gun-powder was prohibited: the bounty to seamen was continued; and the number of those that either entered voluntarily, or were pressed, encreased daily, as did likewise the captures from the French, among which was their ship the Esperance, of seventy guns, taken as she was going from Rochfort to Brest to be manned.

Augmentations were made in the land-forces of Great-Britain; several new regiments

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Though the Engliſh continued to diſtreſs the French trade, not only in the ſeas of America, but alſo in thoſe of Europe, by taking every ſhip they could meet with, and detaining them, their crews, and cargoes; yet the French, partly from a conſciouſneſs of their want of power by ſea, partly that they might have a pretext to repreſent England as the aggreſſor, were ſo far from retorting

ing theſe hoſtilities, that their fleet, which returned from America, having, on the thirteenth of Auguſt, taken the Blandford man of war, with governour Lyttleton on board, going to Carolina; they ſet the governour at liberty, as ſoon as the court was informed of the ſhip's being brought into Nantes, and, in a ſhort time after, releaſed both the ſhip and crew.

The intention, however, of this artifice, was eaſily diſcovered; eſpecially as their preparations for a land-war were ſtill carried on with redoubled diligence, and their utmoſt arts and efforts were employed to perſuade the Spaniards and Dutch to join them.

The Engliſh were not behind-hand with them in making preparations for the approaching rupture: ſeveral new ſhips were put in commiſſion, and many others taken into the ſervice of the government: the exportation of gun-powder was prohibited: the bounty to ſeamen was continued; and the number of thoſe that either entered voluntarily, or were preſſed, encreaſed daily, as did likewiſe the captures from the French, among which was their ſhip the Eſperance, of ſeventy guns, taken as ſhe was going from Rochfort to Breſt to be manned.

Augmentations were made in the land-forces of Great-Britain; ſeveral new regi-

ments

ments were levied; and all the half-pay officers, and out-penſioners belonging to Chelſea-Hoſpital, were ordered to ſend in their names, ages, and time of ſervice, that they might be employed again in the defence of their country, if neceſſity ſhould require.

The Engliſh navy, ſo early as the month of September of this year, amounted to one ſhip of an hundred and ten guns, five of an hundred guns each, thirteen of ninety, eight of eighty, five of ſeventy-four, twenty-nine of ſeventy, four of ſixty-ſix, one of ſixty-four, thirty-three of ſixty, three of fifty-four, twenty-eight of fifty, four of forty-four, thirty five of forty, and forty-two of twenty, four ſloops of war of fourteen guns each, two of ſixteen, eleven of fourteen, thirteen of twelve, and one of ten, beſides a great number of bomb ketches, fire ſhips, and tenders; a force ſufficient to oppoſe the united maritime ſtrength of all the powers in Europe: whilſt that of the French, even at the end of this year, and including the ſhips then upon the ſtocks, conſiſted only of ſix ſhips of eighty guns, twenty-one of ſeventy-four, one of ſeventy-two, four of ſeventy, thirty-one of ſixty-four, two of ſixty, ſix of fifty, and thirty-two frigates.

The

The Britiſh parliament meeting on the thirteenth day of November, his majeſty opened the ſeſſion with a ſpeech, in which he informed them, that the moſt proper meaſures had been taken to protect our poſſeſſions in America, and to recover ſuch parts of them as had been uſurped or invaded: that to preſerve his people from the calamities of war, as well as to prevent a general flame from being lighted up in Europe, he had always been ready to accept of reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation; but that none ſuch had been offered by France: that he had alſo confined his views and operations to hinder France from making new encroachments, or ſupporting thoſe already made; to exert his people's right to a ſatisfaction for hoſtilities committed in time of profound peace; and to diſappoint ſuch deſigns, as, from various appearances and preparations, there was reaſon to think had been formed againſt his kingdoms and dominions: that he believed no impartial power could object to proceedings ſo abſolutely neceſſary for the defence and ſecurity of his people: that his good bro- the king of Spain beheld with concern theſe differences; and the part which he had taken in the common welfare of Europe,

rope, made him earneſtly wiſh the preſervation of the public tranquillity, and had induced him to give the moſt ſolemn aſſurances of his firm reſolution to continue in the ſame pacific ſentiments: that he himſelf had greatly encreaſed his naval force, and augmented his army in ſuch a manner, as might be leaſt burthenſome to his ſubjects: and finally, that he had concluded a treaty with the empreſs of Ruſſia, and another with the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel, which ſhould be ſubmitted to their peruſal.

This ſpeech was anſwered by loyal and affectionate addreſſes from both houſes of parliament, though not without a warm oppoſition, in each, to ſome of the particular expreſſions; for it having been propoſed in the houſe of lords to inſert in this addreſs the following words; "that they looked upon themſelves as obliged, by the ſtrongeſt ties of duty, gratitude, and honour, to ſtand by and ſupport his majeſty in all ſuch wiſe and neceſſary meaſures and engagements, as his majeſty might have taken or contracted, in vindicating the rights of his crown, or defeating any attempts, which might have been made by France in reſentment of ſuch meaſures; and to aſſiſt his majeſty in diſappointing or reſiſting all ſuch enter-

enterprizes as might be formed, not only againſt his kingdoms, but alſo againſt any other of his dominions, "though not belonging to the crown of Great-Britain," in caſe they ſhould be attacked on account of the part, which his majeſty had taken for maintaining the eſſential intereſts of his kingdoms;" the inſertion of theſe words in their addreſs, was oppoſed by the earl Temple, and ſeveral other lords: but, after an obſtinate diſpute, the words were retained, and the addreſs preſented in its preſent form.

His majeſty's anſwer was conceived in the following terms: "My lords, I give you my hearty thanks for this dutiful and affectionate addreſs. I ſee, with the greateſt ſatisfaction, the zeal you expreſs for my perſon and government, and for the true intereſt of your country, which I am determined to adhere to. The aſſurances, which you give me for the defence of my territories abroad, are a ſtrong proof of your affection for me, and regard for my honour. Nothing ſhall divert me from purſuing thoſe meaſures, which will effectually maintain the poſſeſſions and rights of my kingdoms, and procure reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation."

The addreſs of the lower houſe contained the ſame expreſſions of zeal and gratitude, and

and the ſame aſſurances of a ready ſupport of his majeſty, in caſe his foreign dominions ſhould be attacked, in reſentment of his maintaining the rights of his crown and kingdoms; and his majeſty's anſwer was of much the ſame purport with that to the houſe of lords.

The ſame, or nearly the ſame words, relating to the defence of his majeſty's foreign dominions were propoſed to be inſerted in this addreſs, which was oppoſed by William Pitt, Eſq; then paymaſter of his majeſty's forces; the right honourable Henry Legge, Eſq; chancellor and under treaſurer of his majeſty's exchequer, and one of the commiſſioners of the treaſury; and by ſeveral other gentlemen in high poſts under the government, as well as by many others: but, after a long debate, the words were approved by a conſiderable majority, and the addreſs preſented.

The oppoſition, however, to the new treaties was ſo great, that, when a draught came over from Ruſſia for part of the ſubſidy ſtipulated to that crown, ſome of the miniſtry, who were then at the head of the finances, refuſed to pay it, at leaſt till the treaty ſhould be approved of by parliament.

Sir

Sir Thomas Robinſon had not long enjoyed the poſt of ſecretary of ſtate, before it was generally perceived, that, though a man of integrity and virtue, and a favourite with the king, his talents were not equal to the duties of his office. Much leſs were they ſo at a juncture, when the nation was on the point of being plunged into a difficult and expenſive war, which it would require the utmoſt ſkill and capacity of an able politician to conduct to the ſatisfaction of the people.

Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, though they ſcarce ever agreed in any other point, had generally united in oppoſing his meaſures; and their ſuperior intereſt in the houſe of commons, and univerſally acknowledged abilities, though of very different kinds, had always formed ſuch a powerful party, as greatly retarded the public buſineſs.

It was ſomewhat ſtrange, indeed, to ſee two perſons, who held conſiderable places under the government, one of them being paymaſter-general, and the other ſecretary at war, oppoſe, upon almoſt every occaſion, a ſecretary of ſtate, who was ſuppoſed to know and ſpeak the ſentiments of his maſter; but the truth is, they conſidered him as altogether unqualified for the poſt he enjoyed.

Sir Thomas himself soon grew sensible of his want of sufficient influence in the great council of the nation; and he, therefore, of his own accord, on the tenth day of November, very wisely and dutifully resigned the seals of his office to his majesty, who delivered them to Mr. Fox, and appointed Sir Thomas master of the wardrobe, with a pension to him during his life, and, after his death, to his sons. Lord Barrington succeeded Mr. Fox as secretary at war: Sir George Lyttleton was made chancellor of the exchequer in the room of Mr. Legge; and Mr. Pitt, and most of the other gentlemen in the opposition, were removed from their places.

These alterations served only to increase the strength of the minority; for when the treaty with Russia and Hesse-Cassel came to be considered in the house, some of the members proposed referring them to the examination of a committee: but this motion was rejected, in consideration of his majesty's having contracted them with a view to avert the storm that threatened his electoral dominions, merely on account of our quarrel with the French. They were, therefore, approved by a majority of of three hundred and eighteen against one hundred and twenty-six in the lower house,

and

and by eighty-four againſt eleven in the upper.

The commons then proceeded to examine the eſtimates for the enſuing year. Fifty thouſand ſeamen, including nine thouſand one hundred and thirty-eight marines, were voted, together with two millions ſix hundred thouſand pounds for their maintenance; and thirty-four thouſand two hundred and ſixty-three land forces, with nine hundred and thirty thouſand ſix hundred and three pounds, ſix ſhillings and nine pence for their ſupport. An hundred thouſand pounds were granted as a ſubſidy to the empreſs of Ruſſia; fifty-four thouſand one hundred and forty pounds to the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel; and ten thouſand to the elector of Bavaria.

While the national buſineſs was thus going on, not only the people of Great-Britain, but the whole world, was thrown into the deepeſt conſternation by a dreadful earthquake, which, on the firſt of November, ſhook all Spain and Portugal, and many other places in Europe, and laid the city of Liſbon in ruins.

When the firſt account of this great calamity arrived in England, it excited an apprehenſion, leſt it ſhould hurt our public credit, conſidering the vaſt intereſt which

the Engliſh merchants had in the Portugueſe trade: but fortunately it afterwards appeared to be very inconſiderable; the quarter in which the Engliſh chiefly lived, and where they had their warehouſes, having ſuffered the leaſt of any part of the city; and moſt of the Britiſh merchants then reſiding there, having, with their families, gone to their country-houſes, to avoid the inſults, to which they might have been expoſed from the Portugueſe populace, during the celebration of their *Auto da fe*, which was kept that very day.

The two firſt ſhocks of this dreadful viſitation happened about ten in the morning, and continued near a quarter of an hour; after which the water of the Tagus roſe perpendicularly above twenty feet, and ſubſided to its natural bed in leſs than a minute. Great numbers of houſes, of which the city then contained about thirty-ſix thouſand, extending in length near ſix miles, in form of a creſcent, on the aſcent of a hill upon the north ſide of the river Tagus, within nine miles from its mouth, were thrown down by the repeated concuſſions, together with ſeveral magnificent churches, monaſteries, and public buildings.

But

But what entirely compleated the ruin of this then moſt flouriſhing capital of the Portugueſe dominions, was a devouring conflagration, partly fortuitous or natural, partly raiſed by a ſet of impious ruffians, who, unawed by the tremendous ſcene at that very inſtant paſſing before their eyes, with a wickedneſs ſcarcely to be paralleled, ſet fire even to the falling edifices, to encreaſe the general conſternation, that they might have the better opportunity to rob and plunder their already deſolated fellow-citizens. Of three hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants, which Liſbon was then ſuppoſed to contain, about ten thouſand periſhed by this calamity; and the ſurvivors, deprived of their habitations, and deſtitute even of the neceſſaries of life, were obliged to ſeek for ſhelter in the open fields.

His majeſty had no ſooner received an account of this melancholy event from his miniſter at the court of Madrid, than he ſent a meſſage to both houſes of parliament, acquainting them with the particulars, and deſiring their concurrence and aſſiſtance in ſpeedily relieving the unhappy ſufferers; and the parliament thereupon, to the honour of Britiſh humanity, unanimouſly voted a gift of an hundred thouſand pounds for the diſtreſſed people of Portugal.

A circumſtance, which enhanced the merit of this action, was, that, though the Engliſh themſelves were, at that very time, in great want of grain, a conſiderable part of the ſum was remitted in corn, flour, rice, and a large quantity of beef from Ireland; ſupplies, which came very ſeaſonably for the poor Portugueſe, who were in great want of the neceſſaries of life.

Their king was ſo ſenſibly affected with this inſtance of Britiſh generoſity, that, as a proof of his gratitude, he ordered Mr. Caſtres, the Engliſh reſident at his court, to give the preference, in the diſtribution of theſe ſupplies, to the Britiſh ſubjects, who had ſuffered by the earthquake. Accordingly, about a thirtieth part of the proviſions, and two thouſand pounds in money, were ſet apart for that purpoſe; and his Portugueſe majeſty returned his thanks, in the warmeſt terms, to the Britiſh crown and nation.

As it was generally apprehended that the French would attempt an invaſion of theſe kingdoms, on the twenty-ſecond day of January the lord Barrington, as ſecretary at war, laid before the houſe an eſtimate for defraying the charge of ten new regiments of foot, over and above the thirty-four thouſand two hundred and ſixty-three land-ſoldiers

diers already ordered to be raiſed; and the ſum of ninety-one thouſand nine hundred and nineteen pounds ten ſhillings, was voted for this purpoſe*.

Upon another eſtimate, preſented a little after by the ſame lord, and founded upon the ſame reaſons, for raiſing, for the farther ſervice of the public, eleven troops of light dragoons, forty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-eight pounds eleven ſhillings and three-pence, were voted; together with eighty one thouſand one hundred and ſeventy eight pounds ſixteen ſhillings, for a regiment of foot to be raiſed in North America; two hundred and ninety eight thouſand five hundred and thirty pounds ſeventeen ſhillings and ten-pence half penny, for the maintenance of our forces already eſtabliſhed in our American colonies; and ſeventy nine thouſand nine hundred and fifteen pounds ſix ſhillings, for ſix regiments of foot from Ireland, to ſerve in North America, and the Eaſt-Indies.

On the twenty-eighth day of January, Mr. Fox preſented to the houſe a meſſage from the king, deſiring them to take into conſideration the faithful ſervices of the people of New-England, and of ſome other parts

* A. D. 1756.

parts of North America, and to grant them a ſuitable reward and encouragement; on which account one hundred and fifteen thouſand pounds were voted, and five thouſand as a gratuity to Sir William Johnſon in particular.

In a word, including ſeveral other ſums, as well for defraying the expence of the army and navy, as for a ſubſidy of twenty thouſand pounds to the king of Pruſſia, and one hundred and twenty-one thouſand four hundred and forty-four pounds two ſhillings and ſix-pence for Hanoverian troops, of which two laſt articles farther notice will be taken in the ſequel; the whole of the ſupplies granted by parliament in this ſeſſion, amounted to ſeven millions two hundred and twenty-nine thouſand one hundred and ſeventeen pounds four ſhillings and ſix-pence three farthings.

For raiſing this ſum, beſides the malt-tax, and the land-tax of four ſhillings in the pound, the whole produce of the ſinking-fund, from the fifth of January 1756, until it ſhould amount to one million five hundred and fifty-five thouſand nine hundred and fifty-five pounds eleven ſhillings and three-pence half-penny, was ordered to be applied; together with a million to be raiſed by loans, or exchequer bills, at three

per

per cent. intereſt; one million five hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed by the ſale of redeemable annuities, at three and a half per cent; and five hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed by a lottery at three per cent.

In order the more expeditiouſly to man the navy, and augment the army, a law was now made, ordaining, that the commiſſioners, appointed by this act, ſhould be impowered to raiſe and levy, within their reſpective juriſdictions, ſuch able-bodied men as did not follow any lawful calling or employment, or had not ſome other lawful and ſufficient ſupport; and might order, wherever and whenever they pleaſed, a general ſearch to be made for ſuch perſons, in order to their being brought before them to be examined; and that the pariſh or town officers might, without any ſuch order, ſearch for and ſecure ſuch perſons, in order to convey them before the ſaid commiſſioners to be examined: that, if any three commiſſioners ſhould find any perſon, ſo brought before them, to be within the above deſcription; and if the recruiting officer attending ſhould judge him to be fit for his majeſty's ſervice; they ſhould cauſe him to be delivered to ſuch officer, who might ſecure him in any place of ſafety provided by the juſtices of the peace for that

that purpoſe, or even in any public priſon; and that every man was from that time to be deemed a liſted ſoldier, and not to be taken out of his majeſty's ſervice by any proceſs, other than for ſome criminal matter.

Nothing could more clearly demonſtrate the zeal of the parliament for a vigorous proſecution of the war, and their entire confidence in the juſtice and moderation of the miniſtry, than their paſſing this act, which was to continue in force till the end of the ſeſſion; and which, in the hands of a wicked and arbitrary adminiſtration, might have been employed in purpoſes dangerous to the conſtitution of the kingdom, and the liberty of the ſubject.

The next object, that engaged the attention of the parliament, was the raiſing of a new regiment of foot in North America, which was to conſiſt of four battalions of a thouſand men each, and to be compoſed chiefly of the Germans and Swiſs, who, from time to time, had arrived and ſettled in the Britiſh plantations, where waſte lands had been aſſigned them upon the frontiers of the provinces; but, unhappily, no care had been taken to intermix them with the Engliſh inhabitants, ſo that few of them under-

underſtood or could ſpeak the Engliſh language.

Nevertheleſs, as they were all zealous Proteſtants, and in general ſtrong, hardy men, and accuſtomed to the climate, it was thought, that a regiment of good and faithful ſoldiers might be raiſed from among them, particularly proper to oppoſe the French: but, for this purpoſe, it was neceſſary to appoint ſome officers, particularly ſubalterns, who underſtood military diſcipline, and could ſpeak the German language; and as a ſufficient number of ſuch could not be found among the Engliſh officers, it was requiſite to bring over and to grant commiſſions to ſeveral German and Swiſs officers and engineers.

By the act of ſettlement, however, this ſtep could not be taken without the authority of parliament. An act, therefore, was paſſed for enabling his majeſty to grant commiſſions to a certain number of foreign Proteſtants, who had ſerved abroad as officers or engineers, to act and rank as officers and engineers in America only.

An other act was paſſed in this ſeſſion, ſtrictly prohibiting, under pain of death, any of his majeſty's ſubjects from ſerving as officers under the French king, or from enliſting as ſoldiers in his ſervice; and alſo obliging

obliging ſuch of his majeſty's ſubjects, as ſhould, in time to come, accept of commiſſions in the Scotch brigade in the Dutch ſervice, to take the oaths of allegiance and abjuration on pain of forfeiture of five hundred pounds.

A reſolution having been taken in the courſe of the preceding ſummer to build veſſels of force upon the lake Ontario, an act was now paſſed for extending the maritime laws of England to ſuch officers, ſeamen, and others, as ſhould ſerve on board his majeſty's ſhips or veſſels employed upon the lakes, great waters, or rivers in North-America: and alſo for recruiting his majeſty's forces in that part of the world; to which end, by a new clauſe, now added to a former act, a recruiting officer was empowered to inliſt and detain an indented ſervant, even though his maſter ſhould reclaim him, upon paying to the maſter ſuch a ſum as two juſtices of the peace ſhould adjudge to be a reaſonable equivalent for the remaining time the ſervant might have to ſerve.

While the parliament of Great-Britain was thus proceeding with the public buſineſs, the whole ſyſtem of affairs in Europe took a new and a ſudden turn. His Pruſſian majeſty, to the moſt diſtinguiſhed abilities,

lities, both of a military and political nature, had joined the moſt indefatigable application; by means of which he had procured intelligence, that a negociation was carrying on between the courts of Peterſburgh, Vienna, and Verſailles, in order to effect his ruin; and he plainly perceived, that if once the Ruſſians, in the pay of Great-Britain, ſhould get footing in Germany, his ſituation muſt be very precarious; the rather, as her Czariſh majeſty had offered to ſend, to the aſſiſtance of his Britannic majeſty, twenty thouſand troops more than what had been ſtipulated. He therefore publickly and ſolemnly proteſted againſt the introduction of any foreign troops into Germany; and declared, that he would draw the ſword againſt the French as readily as againſt any others.

His Pruſſian majeſty's ſituation in Germany, with regard to the Ruſſians, was now the very ſame as that of his Britannic majeſty, with regard to the French. Though the latter ſtill continued to preſerve the appearance of a good underſtanding with the court of Berlin, yet nothing was to be expected from their friendſhip; and though her Ruſſian majeſty appeared ready to fulfill her engagements with Great-Britain, yet, conſidering her growing connections

with France, the experiment was too dangerous to be made.

As nothing but neceſſity had ever induced his Britannic majeſty to apply for Ruſſian auxiliaries, it was natural for him to fall in with the views of his nephew; eſpecially as they had now but one common intereſt, the preventing the introduction of foreign troops into Germany.

A convention, therefore, was inſtantly concluded between theſe two monarchs, importing, that having maturely conſidered, that the differences, which had lately ariſen in America, might eaſily extend much farther, and even reach Europe; having, moreover, always the welfare and ſafety of Germany, their common country, much at heart; and being extremely deſirous to maintain its peace and tranquillity; they had, as the moſt effectual means of obtaining this ſalutary end, agreed upon a convention of neutrality, by which they reciprocally bound themſelves not to ſuffer foreign troops, of any nation whatſoever, to enter into Germany, or paſs through it, during the troubles aforeſaid, and the conſequences that might reſult from them; but to oppoſe the ſame with their utmoſt might, in order to ſecure Germany from the calamities of war, defend her fundamental laws and

and conſtitutions, and preſerve her peace uninterrupted. Their majeſties, likewiſe, ſeized this favourable opportunity to adjuſt the differences that had ſubſiſted between them, in relation to the remainder of the Sileſia loan due to the ſubjects of his Britannic majeſty, and the indemnification claimed by the ſubjects of his Pruſſian majeſty for their loſes by ſea during the late war; ſo that the attachment laid on the ſaid debt was agreed to be taken off, as ſoon as the ratifications of this treaty ſhould be exchanged.

Towards the latter end of January the houſe of commons took into conſideration the laws in being relating to the militia of the kingdom; and finding them inſufficient, ordered a bill to be prepared and brought in.

A bill was accordingly framed for this purpoſe, and preſented to the houſe on the twelfth day of March, by the Hon. Charles Townſend, Eſq; who, to his honour, was one of its chief promoters, and after undergoing many amendments, it was, on the tenth day of May, paſſed and ſent to the lords: but ſeveral objections being ſtarted againſt it by ſome of the peers, who alledged that it required a great number of other amendments, which it would be impoſſible to make in the courſe of this ſeſſion, it was, after a long debate, rejected by

a majority of fifty-nine againſt twenty-three voices.

On the twenty ſeventh day of May, his majeſty put an end to the ſeſſion with a ſpeech, in which he thanked his parliament for the vigorous and effectual ſupport they had given him; and acquainted them, that the injuries and hoſtilities, which had been, for ſome time, committed by the French againſt his dominions and ſubjects, were then followed by the actual invaſion of the iſland of Minorca, though guarantied to him by all the great powers of Europe, and particularly by the French king: that he therefore found himſelf obliged, in vindication of the honour of his crown, and of the rights of his people, to declare war in form againſt France: and that he relied on the divine protection, and the vigorous aſſiſtance of his faithful ſubjects, in ſo juſt a cauſe. This ſpeech being finiſhed, the lord chancellor, by his majeſty's command, prorogued the parliament.

In the beginning of this year Mr. Fox, lately appointed ſecretary of ſtate, received a letter from Mr. Rouillé, miniſter and ſecretary of ſtate for foreign affairs to the king of France, importing, that the king, his maſter, was able to demonſtrate to the whole univerſe, by authentic proofs, that

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it was not owing to him, that the differences relating to America had not been amicably accommodated: that being moſt ſincerely deſirous to maintain the publick peace, and a good underſtanding with his Britannic majeſty, he had carried on the negociation relative to that ſubject, with the moſt unreſerved confidence and good faith: that the aſſurances of his Britannick majeſty's diſpoſition to peace, which that monarch and his miniſters were conſtantly repeating, both by word of mouth and in writing, were ſo formal and preciſe, that the king could not, without reproaching himſelf, entertain the leaſt ſuſpicion of the ſincerity of the court of London's intentions: that it was ſcarce poſſible to conceive, how theſe aſſurances could be reconciled with the orders for hoſtilities given to general Braddock, and admiral Boſcawen: that the attack and capture of two of the king's ſhips, in the open ſeas, and without a declaration of war, was a publick inſult on his majeſty's flag; and his majeſty would have immediately manifeſted his reſentment of ſuch an irregular and violent proceeding, had he not believed that admiral Boſcawen had acted in contradiction to the orders of his court: that, for the ſame reaſon, the king ſuſpended, at firſt, his judgement of the piracies,

that had been committed, for ſeveral months, by the Engliſh men of war, on the commerce of his majeſty's ſubjects, in contempt of the law of nations, the faith of treaties, the uſages eſtabliſhed among civilized nations, and the regard they reciprocally owed to each other: that the ſentiments of his Britannic majeſty gave the king room to expect, that, at his return to London, he would have diſavowed the conduct of his admiralty and naval officers, and have given his majeſty a ſatisfaction proportionate to the injury and damage he had ſuſtained: but ſeeing that the king of England, inſtead of puniſhing the robberies committed by the Engliſh navy, encouraged and approved them, by demanding from his ſubjects freſh ſupplies againſt France; his majeſty would fall ſhort in what he owed to his own glory, the dignity of his crown, and the defence of his people, if he deferred demanding, any longer, the reparation for the outrage offered to the French flag, and the damage done to his ſubjects: that his majeſty, therefore, thought proper to apply directly to his Britannic majeſty, and demanded from him immediate and full reſtitution of the French ſhips, as well men of war, as merchantmen, which, contrary to all law, and all decorum, had been taken by the Engliſh navy; and of all the

the officers, ſoldiers, marines, guns, ſtores, merchandize, and, in general, of every thing belonging to theſe veſſels: that the king would always chuſe to owe to the king of England's equity, rather than to any thing elſe, that ſatisfaction which he had a right to demand; and all the powers of Europe would undoubtedly ſee in the ſtep, which he had now taken, a new and ſtriking proof of that invariable love of peace, which directed all his councils and reſolutions: that if his Britannic majeſty ordered reſtitution of the veſſels in queſtion, the king would be diſpoſed to enter into a negociation for that farther ſatisfaction, which was legally due to him; and would continue deſirous, as he had always been, to have the differences, relating to America, determined by an equitable and ſolid accommodation; but, if contrary to all hopes, the king of England ſhould refuſe what his majeſty demanded, his majeſty would regard this denial of juſtice as the moſt authentic declaration of war, and as a formed deſign in the court of London, to diſturb the peace of Europe.

To this inſolent demand the Britiſh ſecretary replied, not with that aſperity of ſtile, which it ſo juſtly deſerved, but with that dig-

dignity which became the court, whose ſentiments he repreſented.

He ſaid, that though the king of England would readily conſent to an equitable and ſolid accommodation, he would not comply with the demand of immediate and full reſtitution, as a preliminary condition; for his majeſty had taken no ſteps but ſuch as were rendered juſt and indiſpenſable by the hoſtilities which the French had begun in a time of profound peace, and a proper regard for his own honour, the rights and poſſeſſions of his crown, and the ſecurity of his kingdoms.

At the ſame time a refutation was drawn up of the charges brought in the French memorial againſt the Engliſh nation, and was tranſmitted to the Britiſh ambaſſador at the ſeveral courts of Europe, in order to be publiſhed for the ſatisfaction of the world.

The miniſtry of Verſailles, while they preſented remonſtrances, which they knew would prove ineffectual, and exclaimed againſt the conduct of Great Britain with all the arts of defamation, continued, nevertheleſs, to make ſuch preparations as diſcovered a deſign to proſecute the war with uncommon vigour.

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The fortifications of Dunkirk were begun to be repaired: orders were iſſued for all Britiſh ſubjects to quit the dominions of France: many Engliſh veſſels were ſeized in different ports of that kingdom, and their crews ſent to priſon. At the ſame time an edict was publiſhed, inviting the French ſubjects to fit out privateers; offering a premium of forty livres for every gun, and as much for every man they ſhould take from the enemy; and promiſing, that, in caſe a peace ſhould be ſpeedily concluded, the king would purchaſe the privateers at prime coſt.

They employed great numbers of artificers and ſeamen in equipping a formidable ſquadron of ſhips at Breſt; and collecting a ſtrong body of forces, as well as a conſiderable number of tranſports, threatened the iſland of Great Britain with an immediate invaſion.

In order to guard againſt the impending danger, colonel York, the Britiſh ambaſſador at the Hague, was directed to make a requiſition of the ſix thouſand men, whom the States-general were bound by treaty to furniſh, when Great Britain ſhall be threatened with an invaſion; and in the month of February he preſented a memorial for this purpoſe.

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Monſieur D'Affry, the French reſident at the Hague, having received intelligence of this demand, produced a counter-memorial from his maſter, accuſing the Engliſh as the aggreſſors, and plainly declaring to the ſtates-general, that, ſhould they grant the ſuccours demanded by Great Britain, he would conſider ſuch a ſtep as an act of hoſtility againſt himſelf.

The Dutch, actuated by that ſelfiſh ſpirit which has ſo long influenced their councils, were extremely glad of ſuch a plauſible excuſe. Their commerce was, in a great meaſure, decayed, and their finances were too much exhauſted to admit of an immediate augmentation of their forces, which, for many other reaſons, they endeavoured to avoid.

They expected a great increaſe of trade from their adhering to a punctual neutrality: they were afraid of the French by land, and jealous of the Engliſh by ſea; and perhaps they were not diſpleaſed with the proſpect of ſeeing theſe two powerful nations humble and impoveriſh each other.

Whatever was their motive, certain it is they were ſo ſlow and dilatory in giving an anſwer to Mr. York's memorial, that the court of London perceived their intention; and, in order to avoid the mortification of a flat

a flat denial, the king ordered his minister to inform the princess regent, that he thought proper to desist from his demand.

The states, freed, by this declaration, from their late dilemma, at length delivered an answer to Mr. York, in which they enlarged on the difficulties under which they laboured, and thanked his Britannic majesty for having extricated them from that embarassment, into which they were thrown by his first demand, and the counter memorial of the French minister.

The sentiments of these people, however, were more plainly discovered by the previous resolution presented to the states of Holland by the towns of Amsterdam, Dort, Haerlem, Gouda, Rotterdam, and Enckhuysen, roundly affirming, that England was uncontrovertibly the aggressor in Europe, by seizing a considerable number of French vessels: that the threatened invasion did not regard the republic's guarantee of the Protestant succession, inasmuch as it was only intended to procure reparation for the injury sustained by the subjects of his most Christian majesty: and finally, that the succours demanded could be of no advantage to England, as it appeared, by the declaration of his most Christian majesty, that the granting these succours

ſuccours would immediately lay them under a neceſſity of demanding, in their turn, aſſiſtance from Great-Britain.

From this kind of reaſoning the Engliſh may perceive what dependence, in times of public danger, they can place upon the friendſhip of their neareſt allies, who muſt always be furniſhed with the ſame excuſe, when they find it neceſſary or convenient for their own purpoſes. This conſideration, joined to many others of a ſimilar nature, confirmed the opinion, which had long been entertained by all who wiſhed well to the intereſt of their country, that nothing but a regular, well diſciplined militia could effectually ſecure the independence of Great-Britain.

Meanwhile, as this experiment could not be immediately tried, and the preſent juncture would admit of no delay, recourſe was had to a foreign remedy. About the latter end of March, the king ſent a written meſſage to the parliament, importing, that he had received repeated advices from different perſons and places, that a deſign had been formed by the French court to invade Great-Britain or Ireland; and that he was the rather inclined to believe theſe advices, as it was well known, that great preparations of forces, ſhips, artillery, and warlike

warlike ſtores, were then carrying on in the ports of France oppoſite to the Britiſh coaſts; and as ſome of the French miniſters at foreign court had given broad intimations of ſuch an intention; that his majeſty had augmented his forces both by ſea and land, and taken proper meaſures and precautions for putting his kingdoms in a poſture of defence: that, in order to provide ſtill farther for the ſafety of the nation, he had made a requiſition of a body of Heſſian troops, agreeably to the late treaty, to be forthwith brought over, and for that purpoſe had ordered tranſports to be prepared: and that he doubted not but his parliament would ſupport him in taking all ſuch meaſures, as might be conducive to ends ſo eſſential to the honour of his crown, the preſervation of the Proteſtant religion, and the laws and liberties of theſe kingdoms.

This meſſage was anſwered by loyal and affectionate addreſſes from both houſes, who thanked his majeſty for the requiſition he had made of the Heſſian troops; a meaſure which, however ſeverely cenſured by ſome malecontents, was in the preſent critical juncture indiſpenſably neceſſary.

Even this precaution was not deemed ſufficient. In a few days Mr. Fox, the new miniſter, made a motion in the lower houſe,

that another addreſs ſhould be preſented to the king, beſeeching his majeſty, that, for the more effectual defence of this iſland, and for the better ſecurity of the religion and liberties of his ſubjects, againſt the threatened attack by a foreign enemy, he would be graciouſly pleaſed to order twelve battalions of his electoral troops, together with the uſual detachment of artillery, to be immediately brought into this kingdom.

This motion was extremely diſagreeable to a certain ſet of members, who ſeemed to entertain an unconquerable antipathy to all foreign auxiliaries, eſpecially to Germans, and moſt of all to Hanoverians. They were afraid, however, leſt, by making a direct oppoſition, they ſhould too plainly diſcover their principles: they therefore moved for the order of the day, and inſiſted on the queſtion's being put upon that motion; but it was carried in the negative by a conſiderable majority, which likewiſe agreed to the other propoſal.

The reſolution of the houſe was communicated to the lords, who unanimouſly concurred; and their joint addreſs being preſented, his majeſty aſſured them, he would immediately comply with their requeſt. Accordingly, ſuch expedition was uſed, that, in the courſe of next month, both

both Hanoverians and Heſſians arrived in England, and encamped in different parts of the kingdom.

It were to have been wiſhed indeed, that the miniſtry, by neglecting the eſtabliſhment of a regular militia, had not reduced the nation to ſuch a low ebb of diſtreſs, as to oblige them to have recourſe, for ſafety and protection, to the aſſiſtance of foreign auxiliaries; but why, ſince auxiliaries were abſolutely neceſſary, Heſſians and Hanoverians might not be as good as any other forces, it will be hard to determine. Yet, nothing was heard but the moſt bitter invectives and virulent declamations againſt the Heſſians and Hanoverians, poured forth at firſt by the enemies of the government, and afterwards propagated by the rabble in general, who were inflamed againſt theſe foreigners to ſuch a degree of animoſity, that nothing could have reſtrained them from violent acts of outrage, but the moſt orderly, modeſt, and inoffenſive conduct, by which the Germans were diſtinguiſhed.

While the Engliſh were alarmed with the fears of an invaſion, the French were employed in preparing for an expedition, which ſucceeded according to their wiſh. In the beginning of the year advice had been brought, that a French ſquadron would ſoon

be ready to ſail from Toulon; and this was afterwards confirmed by repeated intelligence, not only from foreign gazettes, but alſo from the Engliſh miniſters and conſuls reſiding in Spain and Italy.

They reported that the Toulon ſquadron conſiſted of twelve or fifteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports; that they were ſupplied with proviſion for two months only, and therefore could not be intended for America; and that ſtrong bodies of troops were aſſembling from all parts of France, in Dauphiné, and Provence, in order to be embarked.

Notwithſtanding this circumſtantial information, which plainly pointed out Minorca as the place of their deſtination; notwithſtanding the extenſive and advantageous commerce carried on by the ſubjects of Great Britain in the Mediterranean; no care was taken to detach thither a ſquadron of ſhips ſufficient to protect the trade, and defeat the deſigns of the enemy. That important taſk was left to a few inconſiderable ſhips and frigates, which could anſwer no other purpoſe, than that of conveying intelligence from port to port, and enriching their commanders by taking the merchant veſſels of the enemy.

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Nay, the miniſtry ſeemed to pay little or no regard to the remonſtrance of general Blakeney, deputy-governour of Minorca, who, in ſucceſſive letters, repreſented the weakneſs of the garriſon which he commanded in St. Philip's caſtle, the principal fortreſs on the iſland. Far from ſupplying the garriſon with a proper reinforcement, they did not even ſend thither the officers belonging to it, who, to a conſiderable number, were in England upon leave of abſence; nor give directions for any veſſel to tranſport them, until the French armament was ready to make a deſcent upon the iſland.

At length, the object of the enemy's expedition being univerſally known, the miniſtry ſeemed to rouſe from their lethargy, and, like perſons ſuddenly awaked, they acted with hurry and precipitation. Inſtead of ſending out a ſquadron, which, in all reſpects, ſhould be ſuperior to the French fleet in the Mediterranean, and giving the command of it to an officer of approved courage and experience, they aſſigned no more than ten ſhips of the line for this ſervice, beſtowing the command of them upon admiral Byng, who had never met with with any occaſion to ſignalize his courage, and whoſe character in the navy was far from being popular; but Mr. Weſt,

the ſecond in command, was a gentleman univerſally reſpected for his knowledge, ability, and reſolution.

The ſhips appointed for this expedition were but in a very different order, and unprovided with any hoſpital or fire-ſhips. They ſailed from Spithead on the ſeventh day of April, having on board a regiment of ſoldiers, to be landed at Gibraltar, with major-general Stuart, the lord Effingham, and colonel Cornwallis, whoſe regiments were in garriſon at Minorca, about forty inferior officers, and near one hundred recruits, as a reinforcement to St. Philip's fortreſs.

Notwithſtanding the repeated intelligence which had been brought, one would imagine, that the miniſtry of England were ſtill ignorant of the enemy's force and deſtination; for the inſtructions delivered to admiral Byng implied, that, on his arrival at Gibraltar, he ſhould endeavour to learn, whether any French ſquadron had paſſed through the Streights; and, that being certified in the affirmative, as it was probably intended for North-America, he ſhould immediately detach rear-admiral Weſt to Louiſburgh or the iſland of Cape-Breton, with ſuch a number of ſhips, as, when reinforced by thoſe at Haliſax, might con-

conſtitute a fleet ſuperior to that of the enemy.

On the ſecond day of May Mr. Byng arrived at Gibraltar, where he found captain Edgecumbe, with the Princeſs Louiſa ſhip of war, and a ſloop, who acquainted him, that the French armament, commanded by M. de la Galiſſoniere, amounting to thirteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports, carrying a body of fifteen thouſand land forces, had ſailed from Toulon on the tenth day of April, and made a deſcent upon the iſland of Minorca, from whence he had been obliged to retire at their approach.

General Fowke, the governour of Gibraltar, had received two ſucceſſive orders from the ſecretary at war, with regard to his ſparing a battalion of troops, to be tranſported by Mr. Byng, as a reinforcement to the garriſon of Minorca; but, as theſe two orders appeared equivocal, if not contradictory, a council of war was ſummoned; and the majority gave it as their opinion, that no troops could be ſent from thence to Minorca, except a detachment to ſupply the deficiency in the little ſquadron of captain Edgecumbe, who had left a good number of his ſeamen and marines, under

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the command of captain Scroop, to aſſiſt in the defence of St. Philip's.

An account of theſe particulars the admiral tranſmitted to the lords of the admiralty, and, in his letter, made uſe of ſome impolitic expreſſions, which, in all probability, it would have been well for him had he omitted. He ſaid, that if he had been ſo happy as to have arrived at Minorca before the enemy had effected a landing, he flattered himſelf he ſhould have been able to prevent their getting a foot on that iſland.

He complained, that there were no magazines in Gibraltar for ſupplying the fleet with neceſſaries; that the careening wharfs, pits, and ſtorehouſes, were entirely decayed, ſo that he ſhould find it extremely difficult, if not impoſſible, to clean the ſhips that were foul; and this was the caſe with ſome of thoſe he had carried out with him, as well as with thoſe, which had been, for ſome time, cruiſing in the Mediterranean.

He affirmed, that, even if it ſhould be found practicable, it would be very imprudent to throw any men into St. Philip's-caſtle, which could not be ſaved without a land force ſufficient to raiſe the ſiege; and that therefore a ſmall reinforcement would only

only encreaſe the number, which muſt, at laſt, fall into the hands of the enemy.

He added, that ſuch engineers and artillery-men in Gibraltar, as had been at Minorca, were of opinion, that it would be impoſſible to throw any number of men into St. Philip's, if the French had erected batteries on the two ſhores near the entrance of the harbour, ſo as to command the paſſage up to the ſally port of the fortreſs; and with this opinion he ſignified the concurrence of his own ſentiments.

Notwithſtanding theſe difficulties, the admiral reſolved to make ſome attempt towards relieving the garriſon of St. Philip's. Strengthened by Mr. Edgecumbe's ſhips, and reinforced by a detachment from Gibraltar, he ſet ſail from that place, on the eighth day of May, and was joined off Majorca by his majeſty's ſhip the Phœnix, under the command of captain Hervey, who confirmed the intelligence he had already received with regard to the force and deſtination of the enemy.

Thus informed, he detached captain Hervey with three ſhips a head, to take a view of the harbour's mouth, and land, if poſſible, a letter for general Blakeney, acquainting him, that the fleet was arrived to his aſſiſtance. Before the attempt could be made,

made, the French fleet being deſcried to the ſouthward, and the wind blowing ſtrong off ſhore, he recalled the ſhips, and formed the line of battle.

About ſix in the evening, the enemy, to the number of ſeventeen, thirteen of which appeared to be very large, advanced in order, but about ſeven tacked in order to gain the weather gage. Mr. Byng, in order to preſerve that advantage, as well as to make ſure of the land-wind in the morning, imitated their example, being then about five leagues off Cape Mola.

At day light the enemy could not be diſcovered; but two tartanes appearing cloſe to the rear of the Engliſh fleet, they were purſued by ſignal. One of them eſcaped; and the other being taken, was found to have on board two French captains, two lieutenants, and about one hundred private ſoldiers, part of ſix hundred, who had been ſent out in three tartanes the preceeding day, to reinforce the enemy's fleet.

The enemy ſoon re-appearing, the line of battle was formed on both ſides; and about two o'clock admiral Byng diſplayed a ſignal to bear away two points from the wind, and begin the engagement. Rear-admiral Weſt perceiving, that, conſidering his great diſtance from the enemy, it was im-

impoſſible to comply with both orders, bore away with his diviſion ſeven points from the wind, and cloſing down upon the enemy, attacked them with ſuch irreſiſtible fury, that the ſhips, which oppoſed him, were, in a little time, driven out of the line.

Had he been properly ſeconded by the van, in all probability the Britiſh fleet would have gained a complete victory: but the other diviſion did not bear down, and the enemy's center keeping their ſtation, rear-admiral Weſt could not improve his advantage, without expoſing himſelf to the danger of ſeeing his communication with the reſt of the line entirely cut off.

In the beginning of this action, the Intrepid, in Mr. Byng's diviſion, ſuffered ſo much in her rigging, that ſhe could not be managed, and drove on the ſhip that was next in poſition; a circumſtance which obliged ſeveral others to throw all a-back, in order to avoid confuſion, and for ſome time interrupted the action.

Certain it is, that Mr. Byng, though accommodated with a noble ſhip of ninety guns, made little or no uſe of his artillery; but kept aloof, either from a too rigid obſervance of diſcipline, or timidity. When his captain exhorted him to bear down upon the enemy, he very cooly replied, that he would

would not fall into the error committed by admiral Matthews, who, in his engagement with the French and Spaniſh ſquadrons off Toulon, during the preceding war, had broke the line of battle by his own precipitation, and expoſed himſelf ſingly to a fire, which he could not ſuſtain.

Mr. Byng, on the contrary, declared againſt acting, except with his line entire; and, on pretence of rectifying the diſorder which had happened among ſome of his ſhips, heſitated ſo long, and kept at ſuch a wary diſtance, that he never was properly engaged, though he received ſome few ſhots in his hull.

M. de la Galiſſoniere ſeemed equally inclined to put an end to the engagement; part of his ſquadron had been fairly driven from the line of battle; and though he was rather ſuperior to the Engliſh in number of men and weight of metal, he did not chuſe to try the experiment of a cloſer fight with an enemy ſo expert in naval operations: he therefore availed himſelf of Mr. Byng's heſitation, and edged away with an eaſy ſail to join his van, which had been defeated.

The Engliſh admiral made the ſignal for purſuing; but the French ſhips, being clean, he could not come up and cloſe them again, ſo that they retired at their leiſure. Then he

he put his ſquadron on the other tack, in order to keep the wind of the enemy; and next morning they had altogether diſappeared.

The number of his killed, including captain Andrews of the Defiance, amounted to forty-two, and about one hundred and ſeventy were wounded. Three of his capital ſhips had ſuffered ſo much in their maſts and rigging, that they could not keep the ſea, without the moſt imminent danger of foundering: a great number of his ſeamen were ill; and there was no veſſel that could be converted into an hoſpital ſhip for the ſick and wounded.

In theſe circumſtances Mr. Byng called a council of war, at which the land officers aſſiſted. He obſerved, that he was much inferior in number of men and weight of metal to the enemy, who, at the ſame time, had the advantage of ſending their wounded to Minorca, from whence they could be refreſhed and reinforced occaſionally; that, in his opinion, it was impoſſible to relieve St. Philip's fort; and, therefore, they ought to make the beſt of their way back to Gibraltar, which might require immediate protection. His ſentiments were unanimouſly approved by the other members of

the council, and thither he accordingly directed his course.

Mr. Byng's letter to the Admiralty, containing an account of this engagement, was received some time before it was made public; and, when it appeared, was curtailed of several expressions and whole paragraphs, which either tended to his own vindication, or implied a reflection on the conduct of his superiors.

What could induce the ministry to adopt an expedient seemingly liable to so great exceptions we shall not pretend to determine; certain it is, that, on the sixteenth day of June, Sir Edward Hawke and admiral Saunders sailed from Spithead to Gibraltar, to supersede the admirals Byng and West, in their commands of the Mediterranean squadron; and Mr. Byng's letter was not published till the twenty-sixth day of the same month, when it produced all the effect, which his most virulent enemies could have wished.

The common people took fire like a train of the most inflammable materials, and broke out into such a torrent of rage and indignation against the devoted admiral, as had hardly ever been observed on any former occasion.

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This popular clamour was carefully fomented by the emiſſaries of the miniſtry, who artfully endeavoured to vindicate their patrons, by throwing the whole blame of the miſcarriage on the unhappy admiral. They inveighed againſt his inſolence, his folly, his cowardice, and his miſconduct. They even preſumed to make their ſovereign, in ſome meaſure, an inſtrument of their calumny, by aſſerting, that his majeſty had prognoſticated Byng's miſbehaviour from the contents of his firſt letter dated at Gibraltar.

They ridiculed and refuted the reaſons he had given for returning to that fortreſs after his ſhameful rencounter with the French ſquadron; and, in order to inflame the people with the moſt implacable reſentment, they repreſented, in the moſt dreadful light, the conſequences of loſing Minorca, which muſt now be reduced through his treachery or want of reſolution. In a word, they exerted themſelves ſo ſtrenuouſly in maintaining and encreaſing the popular deluſion, that no notice was taken of the miſconduct of the miniſtry, while Byng was hanged and burnt in effigie in different parts of the capital.

The two officers, who ſucceeded to his command in the Mediterranean, were accompanied by the lord Tyrawley, whom his majeſty had appointed to ſuperſede general Fowke in the government of Gibraltar, that gentleman having incurred the diſpleaſure of the miniſtry for not having underſtood an order, which to him and the whole council of war, appeared, in ſome meaſure, unintelligible.

At the ſame time, a letter from the ſecretary of the admiralty was ſent to Mr. Byng, giving him notice he was recalled. To this intimation he replied in ſuch a manner as diſcovered a conſciouſneſs of having done his duty, and a laudable deſire to vindicate his own conduct.

This letter contained ſome farther particulars relating to the engagement, in which he was ſuppoſed to have miſbehaved, intermixed with a minute and puerile calculation of the enemy's ſuperiority in number of men, and weight of metal, which anſwered no other purpoſe than that of laying him more open to the ridicule and abuſe of his enemies; and he was even ſo impolitic as to hazard certain ſevere reflexions, which ſerved only to precipitate his own fate. Directions were forthwith diſ-

diſpatched to Sir Edward Hawke, that Byng ſhould be ſent home in arreſt; and an order to the ſame purpoſe was lodged at every ſea port in the kingdom: precautions, which, however unneceſſary for ſecuring the perſon of a man, who earneſtly deſired to juſtify his conduct by a public trial, were yet productive of conſiderable effect in augmenting the popular odium.

In conſequence of theſe injunctions admiral Byng embarked in the ſhip, which had carried out his ſucceſſor, and was accompanied by Mr. Weſt, general Fowke, and ſeveral of the officers of the garriſon of Gibraltar, who were recalled on account of having ſubſcribed to the opinion of the council of war above mentioned. When they arrived in England, Mr. Weſt met with ſuch a gracious reception from his majeſty, as was thought due to his extraordinary merit; but Mr. Byng was committed cloſe priſoner to an apartment in Greenwich-Hoſpital.

Mean while, the ſiege of St. Philip's fort in Minorca was carrying on with unwearied vigour. The armament of Toulon, compoſed of the fleet commanded by M. de la Galiſſoniere, and the tranſports containing the land-forces, under the duke

de Richlieu, arrived on the eighteenth day of April at the port of Ciudadella, on that part of the island opposite to Mahon, or St. Philip's, and immediately began to disembark their troops.

Two days before their arrival at the island, general Blakeney had, by a packet-boat, received certain intelligence of their approach, and begun to prepare for the defence of the castle. The fort, which he commanded, was very extensive, surrounded with numerous redoubts, ravelins, and other out-works; and provided with subterranean galleries, mines, and traverses, cut out of the solid rock with incredible labour.

In a word, this was one of the best fortified places in Europe, well supplied with artillery, ammunition, and provisions; and, without all question, might have sustained a long and vigorous siege, had it been defended by a numerous garrison, conducted by able engineers, under the direction of an active and vigilant commander.

All these advantages, however, were not united on this occasion. The number of troops in Minorca amounted only to four regiments, whereas the extent of the works required, at least, double that number; and

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even of theſe above forty officers were abſent. The chief engineer was rendered lame by the gout, and the general himſelf was paſt the age of vigour and enterprize.

The inhabitants of the iſland might have been employed as pioneers or day-labourers; but, from their hatred to the Proteſtant religion, they were generally averſe to the Engliſh government, though they had lived happily, and grown rich under its influence.

The governour ordered his officers to beat up for volunteers in the adjacent town of St. Philip's; but few, or none, could be perſuaded to inliſt under his banners; and, it ſeems, he would not venture to force them into the ſervice. He recalled all his detached parties, and, in particular, a company poſted at Fornelles, where a ſmall redoubt had been raiſed, and five companies ſtationed at Ciudadella, a poſt fortified with two pieces of cannon.

At the ſame time, major Cunningham, a brave and gallant officer, was ſent, with a ſmall party, to pull down the bridges, and break up the roads, between that place and St. Philip's; but this laſt taſk could not

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be performed in ſuch a hurry, on account of the hard rock, which runs along the ſurface of the ground through the whole iſland; nor was there time to demoliſh the town of St. Philip's, which ſtood ſo near the fort, that the enemy could not fail to take advantage of its neighbourhood.

The ſtreets were converted into trenches, which otherwiſe could not have been dug through the ſolid rock. Here they made a lodgment cloſe to the works: here they found convenient barracks and quarters of refreſhment, maſks for their batteries, and an effectual cover for their mortars and bombardiers.

The general has been cenſured for not deſtroying the town; but, if we conſider his uncertainty touching the deſtination of the French armament, the odious nature of ſuch an expedient, which could not fail to exaſperate the inhabitants, and the impoſſibility of executing ſuch a ſcheme after the firſt appearance of the enemy, his conduct will be found to be excuſable, if not rather praiſe-worthy. Some houſes and windmills were actually demoliſhed, ſo as to clear the eſplanade and the approaches.

All the wine butts in the cellars of St. Philip's town were emptied, and carried into

to the caſtle, where they might ſerve for gabions and traverſes. Five and twenty Minorquin bakers were hired, and a large number of cattle brought into the fort, for the uſe of the garriſon. The ports were walled up, the poſts aſſigned, the centinels placed, and all the different guards appointed.

Commodore Edgecumbe, who then rode at anchor in the harbour of Mahon, cloſe under the walls of the caſtle, ſailed away, as has been formerly obſerved, with his little ſquadron, after having left all his marines, a detachment from Gibraltar, the whole crew of the Porcupine ſloop, and the greater part of the Dolphin's, as a reinforcement to the garriſon, under the command of captain Scroop of the Dolphin, who, with great gallantry, offered himſelf for this ſevere duty, and bravely ſignalized himſelf during the whole ſiege.

After Mr. Edgecumbe had departed from Minorca, and general Blakeney had cauſed a ſloop to be ſunk in the channel that leads to the harbour, the French ſquadron made its appearance at this part of the iſland; but, without having attempted any thing againſt the fort, fell to the leeward of Cape Mola.

Mola. Next day they returned to their former ſtation, but ſoon bore away; and never afterwards, during the whole courſe of the ſiege, approached ſo near as to give the leaſt diſturbance to the garriſon.

On the twenty-ſecond day of April the governour ſent a drummer to the French general, deſiring to know his reaſons for invading the iſland. To this demand the duke de Richelieu replied, that he was come to reduce the iſland under the dominion of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, by way of retaliation for the conduct of his maſter, who had ſeized and detained the ſhips belonging to the king of France and his ſubjects.

If we may judge from the firſt operations of the ſiege, the engineers of the enemy were not very expert in their profeſſion; for, inſtead of beginning their approaches on the ſide of St. Philip's town, cloſe by the outworks, where they might have been covered from the fire of the garriſon, they erected their batteries at Cape Mola, on the other ſide of the harbour, where they were much more expoſed, their fire leſs effectual, and indeed at too great a diſtance to do any damage to the fort.

The fire of St. Philip's was ſo ſevere, and their cannon ſo well ſerved on this quarter,

quarter, that the enemy's works were ſoon deſtroyed; in conſequence of which they were obliged to alter their plan of attack, and advance on the ſide of St. Philip's town, where they could make their approaches with much greater ſafety.

On the twelfth day of May, about eight at night, they opened two bomb-batteries, near the place where the windmills had been demoliſhed; and from this time an inceſſant fire was kept up on both ſides from mortars and cannon, the French continuing to erect new batteries in every ſituation from whence they could annoy the beſieged. On the ſeventeenth day of the month the garriſon were tranſported with joy at the ſight of the Britiſh ſquadron, commanded by admiral Byng; and Mr. Boyd, commiſſary of the ſtores, ventured to embark in a ſmall bark with ſix oars, which paſſed from St. Stephen's cove, a creek on the weſt ſide of the fortification, through a ſhower of ball from the enemy's cannon and muſquetry on the other ſide, and actually reached the open ſea, his deſign being to join the ſquadron: but this being at a great diſtance, ſtretching away to the ſouthward, and Mr. Boyd finding himſelf purſued by two of the enemy's light veſſels, he returned by the ſame route to the garriſon, without having

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ſuffered the leaſt damage: a circumſtance, which ſeems to refute the notion of Mr. Byng, that it was impoſſible to throw any ſuccours into the fort of St. Philip's.

Next day the hopes of the beſieged, which had been ſo highly elevated with the proſpect of immediate relief, were conſiderably damped by the appearance of the French fleet, which quietly returned to its ſtation off the harbour of Mahon. That ſame evening they were informed by a deſerter, that the Engliſh fleet had been beat in an engagement by Mr. de la Galiſſoniere; and this intelligence was ſoon confirmed by a general diſcharge, or Feu de joie, through the whole French camp, to celebrate the victory they pretended to have gained.

However little claim they might have to this honour, certain it is, the retreat of the Engliſh fleet was, in every reſpect, equivalent to a victory: for had Mr. Byng acquired and maintained the ſuperiority at ſea, the French forces, which had landed in Minorca, would, in all probability, have been obliged in the end to ſurrender themſelves priſoners of war; whereas, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, their ſquadron cruiſed about the iſland without moleſtation, and they were daily ſupplied, by means of their tranſports, with freſh reinforcements

ments of men and provisions. Meanwhile the siege was carried on with incredible vigour, and the garrison defended themselves with no less bravery.

They remounted cannon, the carriages of which had been disabled: they removed them occasionally to places from whence it was judged they could do the greatest execution: they repaired breaches, restored merlons, and laboured with surprizing alacrity, even when they were surrounded by the numerous batteries of the foe; when their embrasures, and even the parapets, were demolished, and they stood exposed not only to the cannon and mortars, but also to the musquetry, which fired upon them, without ceasing, from the windows of the houses in the town of St. Philip.

By this time they were invested with an army of twenty thousand men, and plyed incessantly from sixty-two battering-cannon, twenty-one mortars, and four howitzers, besides the small arms: nevertheless, the loss of men within the fortress was very inconsiderable, the garrison being mostly secured in the subterranean works, which were impenetrable to shells or shot.

By the twenty-seventh day of June they had made a practicable breach in one of the ravelins, and damaged the other outworks

to such a degree, that they determined this night to give a general assault. Accordingly, between the hours of ten and eleven, they advanced to the attack from all quarters on the land-side. At the same time a strong detachment, in armed boats, attempted to force the harbour, and penetrate into the creek, called St. Stephen's cove, to storm Fort Charles, and second the attack upon Fort Marlborough on the farther side of the creek, the most detached of all the outworks. The enemy advanced with great intrepidity, and their commander, the duke de Richelieu, is said to have led them up to the works in person.

Such an assault could not but be attended with great slaughter: they were mowed down, as they approached, with grape-shot and musquetry; and several mines were sprung with great effect, so that the glacis was almost covered with the dying and the dead. Nevertheless, they persevered with uncommon resolution; and, though repulsed on every other side, at length made a lodgement in the queen's redoubt, which had been greatly damaged by their cannon.

Whether their success in this quarter was owing to the weakness of the place, or to the timidity of the defenders, certain it is, the enemy were in possession before it was known

known to the officers of the garrison: for lieutenant-colonel Jeffries, the second in command, who had acquitted himself since the beginning of the siege with equal courage, skill, and activity, in his visitation of this post, was suddenly surrounded and taken by a file of French grenadiers, at a time when he never dreamed they had made a lodgement.

Major Cunningham, who accompanied him, met with a severer fate, though he escaped captivity: he was run through the right arm with a bayonet, and the piece being discharged at the same time, shattered the bones in such a manner, that he was maimed for life. In this shocking condition he retired behind a traverse, and was carried home to his quarters. Thus the governour was deprived of his two principal assistants, one being taken, and the other disabled.

The enemy having made themselves masters of Anstruther's and the queen's redoubts, from which perhaps they might have been dislodged, had a vigorous effort been made for that purpose, before they had leisure to secure themselves, the duke de Richelieu ordered a parley to be beat, in order to obtain permission to bury the dead, and remove the wounded. This request was granted

ed with more humanity than diſcretion, inaſmuch as the enemy took this opportunity to throw a reinforcement of men privately into the places where the lodgements had been made, and theſe penetrated into the gallery of the mines, which communicated with all the other outworks.

During this ſhort ceſſation, general Blakeney ſummoned a council of war, to deliberate upon the ſtate of the fort and garriſon; and the majority declared for a capitulation. The works were in many places ruined; the body of the caſtle was ſhattered; many guns were diſmounted; the embraſures and parapets demoliſhed; the paliſadoes broke in pieces; the garriſon exhauſted with hard duty and inceſſant watching; and the enemy in poſſeſſion of the ſubterranean communications.

Beſides, the governour had received information from priſoners, that the duke de Richelieu was alarmed by a report that the marſhal duke de Belleiſle would be ſent to ſuperſede him in the command, and for that reaſon would hazard another deſperate aſſault, which it was the opinion of the majority the garriſon could not ſuſtain. Theſe conſiderations, added to the deſpair of being relieved, induced him to demand a capitulation.

But

But this meaſure was not taken with the unanimous conſent of the council. Some officers obſerved, that the garriſon was very little diminiſhed, and ſtill in good ſpirits: that no breach was made in the body of the caſtle, nor a ſingle cannon erected to batter in breach: that the loſs of an outwork was never deemed a ſufficient reaſon for ſurrendering ſuch a fortreſs: that the counterſcarp was not yet taken, nor, on account of the rocky ſoil, could it be taken, except by aſſault, which would coſt the enemy a greater number than they had loſt in their late attempt: that they could not attack the ditch, or batter in breach, before the counterſcarp ſhould be taken, and even then they muſt have recourſe to galleries before they could paſs the foſſé, which was furniſhed with mines and counter-mines: finally, they ſuggeſted that in all probability the Britiſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and ſail back to their relief; or if it ſhould not return, it was the duty of the governour to defend the place to extremity, without having any regard to the conſequences.

Theſe remarks being over-ruled, the chamade was beat, a conference enſued, and very honourable conditions were granted to the garriſon, in conſideration of the gal-

lant defence they had made. This it muſt be owned was vigorous while it laſted, as the French general was ſaid to have loſt five thouſand men in the ſiege; whereas the loſs of the garriſon, which at firſt fell ſhort of three thouſand men, did not exceed one hundred. The capitulation imported, that the garriſon ſhould march out with all the honours of war, and be conveyed by ſea to Gibraltar. The French were put in poſſeſſion of one gate, as well as Fort Charles und Marlborough redoubt: but the Engliſh troops remained in the other works till the ſeventh day of July, when they embarked. In the mean time reciprocal civilities paſſed between the commanders and officers of both nations.

The articles of capitulation were no ſooner executed than Monſieur de la Galiſſoniere ſailed back to Toulon, with all the prizes which had lain at anchor in the harbour of Mahon ſince the fort of St. Philip was firſt inveſted. In all probability the ſafety of himſelf and his whole ſquadron was owing to this expeditious retreat; for in a few days after the ſurrender of the fort, Sir Edward Hawke's fleet, augmented by five ſhips of the line, which had been ſent from England, when the firſt tidings arrived of Minorca's being invaded, now made its ap-

appearance off the iſland: but by this time Galiſſoniere was retired, and the Engliſh admiral had the mortification to ſee the French colours flying upon St. Philip's caſtle.

What perhaps chagrined this gallant officer ſtill more, he was not provided with frigates, ſloops, and ſmall craft to cruiſe around the iſland, and intercept the ſupplies which were daily ſent to the enemy. Had he reached Minorca ſooner he might have diſcomfited the French ſquadron; but he could not have raiſed the ſiege of St. Philip's, becauſe the duke de Richelieu had received his reinforcements, and ſuch a train of artillery as no fortification could long withſtand. Indeed, if the garriſon had been conſiderably reinforced, and the communication with it opened by ſea, the defence would have been protracted, and ſo many vigorous ſallies might have been made, that the aſſailants would have had cauſe to repent of their enterprize.

When the news of this conqueſt was brought to Verſailles, by the count of Egmont, whom the duke de Richlieu had diſpatched for that purpoſe, the people of France were tranſported with the moſt extravagant joy. Nothing was ſeen but triumphs and proceſſions,

nothing heard but anthems, congratulations, and hyperbolical encomiums on the conqueror of Minorca, who was celebrated in a thousand poems, and studied orations; while the conduct of the English was vilified and ridiculed in ballads, farces, and pasquinades. This exultation will appear the less surprizing, when it is considered, that the French had hardly ever, in any former period, been accustomed to succeed in their naval expeditions, especially when engaged in a war with Great-Britain.

The loss of Minorca was severely felt in England, as a national disgrace; but, instead of producing dejection and despondence, it excited an universal clamour of rage and resentment, not only against Mr. Byng, who had retreated from the French squadron; but also in reproach of the administration, which was taxed with having neglected the security of Minorca. Nay, some politicians were inflamed into a suspicion, that this important place had been negatively betrayed into the hands of the enemy, that, in case the arms of Great-Britain should prosper in other parts of the world, the French king might have some sort of equivalent to restore for the conquests which should be abandoned at the peace. This notion, it must be owned, discovers the

the bad opinion, which the nation entertained of the integrity of the miniſtry; but it appears in itſelf to have been altogether groundleſs.

Sir Edward Hawke, being diſappointed in his hope of encountering la Galiſſoniere, and relieving the Engliſh garriſon of St. Philip's, at leaſt aſſerted the empire of Great-Britain in the Mediterranean, by annoying the commerce of the enemy, and blocking up their ſquadron in the harbour of Toulon. Underſtanding that the Auſtrian government at Leghorn had detained an Engliſh privateer, and impriſoned the captain, on pretence that he had violated the neutrality of the port, he detached two ſhips of war to inſiſt, in a peremptory manner, on the releaſe of the ſhip, effects, crew, and captain; and they thought proper to comply with his demand, even without waiting for orders from the court of Vienna.

The perſon, in whoſe behalf the admiral thus interpoſed, was one Fortunatus Wright, a native of Liverpool; who, though a ſtranger to a ſea-life, had, in the laſt war, equipped a privateer, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſuch a manner, by his uncommon vigilance and valour, that, if he had been indulged with a command ſuita-

ſuitable to his genius, he would have deſerved as honourable a place in the annals of the navy, as that which the French have beſtowed upon their boaſted Gue Trouin, Du Barr, and Thurot. An uncommon exertion of ſpirit was the occaſion of his being detained at this juncture. While he lay at anchor in the harbour of Leghorn, commander of the St. George privateer of Liverpool, a ſmall ſhip of twelve guns and eighty men, a large French xebeque, mounted with ſixteen cannon, and nearly three times the number of his complement, choſe her ſtation in view of the harbour, in order to interrupt the Britiſh commerce.

The gallant Wright could not endure this inſult: notwithſtanding the enemy's ſuperiority in metal and number of men, he weighed anchor, hoiſted his ſails, engaged him within ſight of the ſhore, and, after a very obſtinate diſpute, in which the captain, lieutenant, and above threeſcore of the men belonging to the xebeque were killed on the ſpot, he obliged them to ſheer off, and returned to the harbour in triumph. This brave officer would, no doubt, have ſignalized himſelf by many other exploits, had he not, in the ſequel, been overtaken, in the midſt of his career,

by

by a dreadful ſtorm, in which the ſhip foundering, he, and all his crew, periſhed.

Sir Edward Hawke, having ſcoured the Mediterranean, and inſulted the enemy's ports, returned with the homeward-bound trade to Gibraltar; from whence, about the latter end of the year, he ſet ſail for England with part of his ſquadron, leaving the reſt in that bay for the protection of our commerce, which, in thoſe parts, ſoon began to ſuffer extremely from French privateers, that now ſwarmed in the Mediterranean.

General Blakeney, with the garriſon of Minorca, had arrived at Portſmouth in the month of November; and, though his merit ſeems to have been over-rated in the ſame proportion as the miſconduct of the unhappy Byng was exaggerated, his behaviour was ſo acceptable to his ſovereign, that he was honoured with the dignity of an Iriſh peerage.

In the beginning of this year, the meaſures taken by the government of Great-Britain appear to have been chiefly dictated by the dread of an invaſion, from which the miniſters did not think themſelves ſecured by the guard-ſhips and cruiſers on different parts of the coaſt, or the ſtanding army of the kingdom, though reinforced by

by the two bodies of German auxiliaries. A conſiderable number of new troops was levied: the ſucceſs in recruiting was not only promoted by the land-holders throughout the kingdom, who thought their eſtates were at ſtake, and for that reaſon encouraged their dependants to engage in the ſervice, but alſo in a great meaſure owing to a dearth of corn, which reduced the lower claſs of labourers to ſuch diſtreſs, that ſome inſurrections were raiſed, and many inliſted with a view to obtain a livelihood, which otherwiſe they could not earn.

New ſhips of war were built, and daily put in commiſſion; but it was found impracticable to man them, without having recourſe to the practice of impreſſing; an expedient, which, however unpopular, and even illegal, has, nevertheleſs, in caſes of great emergency, been always deemed indiſpenſably neceſſary; and for ſupplying the place of which, no ſcheme, that has yet been offered, has been thought to be ſo little dangerous to the liberty of the ſubject, and ſo conſiſtent with a free conſtitution, as the expedient itſelf *.

Above

* At this juncture a number of public-ſpirited merchants of the city of London, and others, formed them-

Above eighty ships of the line, and threescore frigates were already equipped, and considerable bodies of land-forces assembled, when, on the third day of February, a proclamation was issued, requiring all officers civil and military, upon the first appearance of any hostile attempt to land upon the coasts of the kingdom, immediately to cause all horses, oxen, and cattle, which might be fit for draught or burthen, and not actually employed in the king's service or in the defence of the country, and also (so far as might be practicable) all other cattle and provisions, to be driven and removed twenty miles at least from the place where such hostile attempt should be made, and to secure the same, so as that they might not fall into the hands or power of those who should make such attempt; regard being had, however, that the respective owners

themselves into a very laudable association, under the name of the Marine Society, and contributed considerable sums of money for equipping such orphans, friendless and forlorn boys, as were willing to engage in the service of the navy. In consequence of this excellent plan, which was executed with equal zeal and discretion, many thousands were rescued from misery, and rendered useful members of that society, of which they must have been the bane and the reproach, without this humane interposition.

ſhould ſuffer as little damage, as might be conſiſtent with the public ſafety.

As the miniſtry were determined to make their chief efforts againſt the enemy in North America, where the firſt hoſtilities had been committed, and where the ſtrongeſt impreſſion could be made, a detachment, was ſent thither under the conduct of general Abercrombie, appointed as ſucceſſor to general Shirley, whom they had recalled, as a perſon no ways qualified to conduct military operations: nor, indeed, could any ſucceſs in war be expected from the endeavours of a man who had not been trained to arms, nor ever acted but in a civil capacity.

But the command in chief of all the forces in America was conferred upon the earl of Loudon, a nobleman of an amiable character, who had already diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the ſervice of his country. Over and above his command, he was now appointed governour of Virginia, and colonel of a royal American regiment, conſiſting of four battalions, to be raiſed in that country, and diſciplined by officers of experience, invited from foreign ſervice. Mr. Abercrombie ſet ſail for America in March; but the earl of Loudon, who directed in chief the plan of operations, and was veſted with power

power and authority little inferior to thoſe of a viceroy, did not embark till the latter end of May.

On the eighteenth day of the ſame month his majeſty thought proper to publiſh a declaration of war againſt the French king, importing, that the unwarrantable proceedings of the French in the Weſt Indies and North America, from the concluſion of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and the uſurpations and encrochments they had made on our territories and ſettlements in thoſe parts, particularly on our province of Nova Scotia, had been ſo notorious, and ſo frequent, that they could not but be conſidered as a ſufficient evidence of a formed deſign and reſolution, in that court, to purſue invariably ſuch meaſures, as ſhould moſt effectually promote their ambitious views, without any regard to the moſt ſolemn treaties and engagements: that he had not been wanting, on his part, to make, from time to time, the moſt ſerious repreſentations to the French king upon theſe repeated acts of violence, and to endeavour to obtain redreſs and ſatisfaction for the injuries done to his ſubjects, and to prevent the like cauſes of complaint for the future; but, though frequent aſſurances had been given, that every thing ſhould be ſettled agreeable to the treaties

subsisting between the two crowns, and particularly that the evacuation of the four neutral islands in the West Indies should be effected, which was expressly promised to his ambassador in France; the performance of these promises, and the execution of the treaties, on which they were founded, had been evaded, under the most frivolous pretences: that the unjustifiable practices of the French governours, and of the officers acting under their authority, were still carried on, till, at length, in the month of August 1754, they broke out into open acts of hostility, during a time of profound peace, and without any declaration of war; and a body of French troops, under the command of an officer bearing the French king's commission, had, without any previous notice given, or application made, attacked, in a hostile manner, and possessed themselves of the English fort on the Ohio in North America: that, notwithstanding this act of hostility, which could not but be looked upon as a commencement of war, his majesty, from his earnest desire of peace, and in hopes the court of France would disavow this violence and injustice, had contented himself with sending such a force to America, as was indispensably necessary for the immediate defence and protection of his sub-

ſubjects againſt freſh attacks and inſults: that, in the mean time, great naval armaments were preparing in the ports of France, and a conſiderable body of French troops embarked for North America; and though the French ambaſſador was ſent back to England with ſpecious profeſſions of a deſire to accommodate differences, yet it appeared that their real deſign was only to gain time for the paſſage of theſe ſupplies and reinforcements, which they hoped would ſecure the ſuperiority of the French forces in America, and enable them to carry their ambitious and oppreſſive projects into execution: that, in theſe circumſtances, he could not but think it incumbent upon him to endeavour to prevent the ſucceſs of ſo dangerous a deſign, and to oppoſe the landing of the French troops in the American colonies; and, in conſequence of the juſt and neceſſary meaſures he had taken for that purpoſe, the French ambaſſador was immediately recalled from England, the fortifications of Dunkirk were enlarged, great bodies of troops marched down to the ſea-coaſts of France, and the Britiſh dominions threatened with an invaſion: that in order the more effectually to fruſtrate theſe intentions, and provide for the ſecurity of his kingdoms, he had given orders for ſeizing at ſea the ſhips

of the French king and his ſubjects: that, nevertheleſs, as he was ſtill unwilling to relinquiſh all hopes of accommodating matters in an amicable manner, he had contented himſelf hitherto with detaining the ſhips ſo taken, and preſerving their cargoes entire, without proceeding to confiſcation; but it being now evident, from the hoſtile invaſion of Minorca, that the court of Verſailles was determined to reject all propoſals of accommodation, and to carry on the war with the utmoſt violence, he could no longer, conſiſtently with the honour of his crown and the welfare of his ſubjects, remain within thoſe bounds, which, from a deſire of peace, he had hitherto obſerved: that he had therefore thought proper to declare war, and did hereby declare war againſt the French king, who had ſo unjuſtly begun it, relying on the help of almighty God in his juſt undertaking, and being aſſured of the hearty concurrence and aſſiſtance of his ſubjects in ſupport of ſo good a cauſe: and finally, that all the French ſubjects, reſiding in Great Britain and Ireland, who ſhould demean themſelves dutifully to the government, might depend upon its protection, and be ſafe in their perſons and effects.

On the ninth day of June the French king declared war, in his turn, againſt his Bri-

Britannic majeſty, and his declaration was conceived in the moſt bitter and virulent terms. He ſaid, it was well known to all Europe, that the differences, relating to the American colonies, were entirely owing to the king of Great Britain; and that, in the month of June laſt, the Britiſh fleet, in contempt of the law of nations, and the faith of treaties, began to commit the moſt violent hoſtilities againſt the ſhips of his majeſty, and the navigation and commerce of his ſubjects: that his majeſty, juſtly offended at this perfidious conduct, and the many inſults that had been offered to his flag, would not have ſuſpended his reſentment, nor refrained from maintaining the dignity of his crown, and the rights of his ſubjects, had he not been unwilling to expoſe Europe anew to the calamities of war; and it was from a regard to this ſalutary principle, that France had behaved with the utmoſt moderation during the moſt injurious proceedings of England: that, while the Engliſh fleet, ſometimes by the moſt odious violences, and ſometimes by the vileſt artifices, made capture of French veſſels, ſailing in full ſecurity under the protection of public faith, his majeſty releaſed an Engliſh frigate taken by a French ſquadron, and Britiſh veſſels traded

to

to the ports of France without moleſtation: that while the French ſoldiers and ſailors, captives in the Britiſh iſles, were treated with a ſeverity exceeding thoſe bounds, which, by the laws of nature and common humanity, are preſcribed to the moſt rigorous rights of war, the Engliſh lived at liberty and trafficked in France, under the protection of that reciprocal kindneſs and reſpect, which civilized nations owe to each other: that while the Engliſh miniſtry, under the appearance of ſincerity, impoſed upon the French ambaſſador with falſe proteſtations, orders, diametrically oppoſite to theſe deceitful aſſurances of a ſpeedy accommodation, were actually carrying into execution in North America: that while the court of London exhauſted all the ſubtilties of intrigues, and all the ſubſidies of England, to inſtigate other powers againſt France, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty did not even aſk of theſe powers the ſuccours, which guaranties and defenſive treaties authorized him to demand; but recommended to them ſuch meaſures only, as tended to their own peace and ſecurity: that the ſtriking contraſt formed by theſe different methods of proceeding would convince all Europe, that one court was guided by motives of jealouſy, ambition, and avarice; and that the conduct of the

the other was founded on principles of honour, juſtice, and moderation: that the vague imputations contained in the king of England's declaration, had in reality no foundation; and the very manner in which they were ſet forth, would prove their futility and falſhood: that the mention made of the works at Dunkirk, and the troops aſſembled on the coaſts of the ocean, implied the moſt groſs attempt to deceive mankind into a belief, that theſe were the points which determined the king of England to iſſue orders for ſeizing the French veſſels; whereas the works of Dunkirk were not begun till after two French ſhips of war had been taken by an Engliſh ſquadron; and depredations had been committed ſix months upon the ſubjects of France before the firſt battalions began their march for the ſea-ſide.

Theſe charges of fraud, perfidy, and deceit, brought by the French againſt the king of England, will appear the more ſurprizing, when it is conſidered, that the accuſers themſelves muſt have been perfectly acquainted with the falſity of their own imputations, and at the ſame time conſcious of their having practiſed the very arts which they affected ſo much to decry.

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The French have long pretended to pass for the most polite and civilized nation in Europe: but whatever may be their character as individuals, certain it is, that their public conduct, especially towards this nation, has been always directly the reverse; a behaviour, than which, however seemingly unaccountable, nothing can be more natural; the weaker or worsted party are ever the most scurrilous and abusive in their language; and as this has generally been the case with France, when engaged in military contests with the English, it would be cruel to deny them the privilege of railing; a privilege, however, to which a brave and generous enemy would be ashamed to lay claim.

End of the FORTIETH VOLUME.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM